

# Cyclists second-rate citizens on Edmonton roadways



ADAM  
GAUMONT

Three days. Two deaths. No, this isn't about a rash of gang-related homicides in Edmonton, it's about people who've been killed while riding their bicycles.

The first, more troubling incident occurred on Saturday, when a hit-and-run left a cyclist dead on the shoulder of Stony Plain Road and a damaged Dodge Ram nowhere to be found.

Then, on Monday evening, a cyclist was killed in Mill Woods—at a crosswalk, no less—after he was struck by a Chevy Camaro. At least that driver had the guts to stick around afterwards.

As anyone who's ever tried it can attest, bicycle-commuting in Edmonton has always been risky business—these latest horrific events just serve to underscore the point. There was just one cycling fatality in Edmonton in all of 2006, and none in 2005, but it would be foolish to conclude that the danger to cyclists is increasing exponentially. The risk has always been there—and will continue to be there—so long as you put cars and cyclists in the same lane.

The reasons for this danger are obvious enough: Edmonton, like most other mid-sized Canadian centres that grew up in the golden age of suburbia, is a driving city. Decades of boom-and-bust growth have resulted in sprawling blanket communities

and commercial centres that are only accessible by vehicle. These economic booms (most notably the current one) have also led to widespread misconceptions of self-entitlement—not to mention lots of disposable cash for hot rods and pickup trucks.

**As anyone who's ever tried it can attest, bicycle-commuting in Edmonton has always been risky business—these latest horrific events just serve to underscore the point.**

But Edmonton isn't the only city in North America choked with traffic. The problem, rather, lies in the fact that there's nowhere else that cyclists can ride. Our city may lay claim to some of the finest and most extensive urban parkland in the world, but unless your daily commute takes you from Rundle Park to Hawrelak or the Velodrome, you're out of luck.

The concrete jungle that looms above the verdant River Valley is what most of us need to navigate everyday to get where we're going, whether by car, bus, bike, or on foot—and unfortunately, the beaten paths for bicycles there are few and far between.

These beaten paths—also known as “bike lanes”—are by far the most sensible solution. You might have heard of them: there are even a few token examples on University-area streets. But try

taking any one of these lanes from Garneau or the Hospital and see how far you get—usually, it's only about five blocks before they die out, spilling you into extremely congested areas like 109 Street or Whyte Avenue.

Often, these simply turn into designated bike “routes”, which are a complete joke. The only difference between these and other unmarked streets is an occasional sign reminding drivers that they might see a cyclist somewhere, and reminding cyclists that they might see a car somewhere (that is, if they have enough time to look around while dodging the swinging doors of parked vehicles).

Sidewalks are an option too, albeit an illegal one. The least the City could do here is give cyclists a safe, legal option by decriminalizing the practice, but zipping in and around pedestrians will never be a very efficient—or safe—method of transportation.

In looking for a more viable and long-lasting solution, then, Edmonton could use to swallow its pride and take a few lessons from other Canadian cities. In Toronto—easily the most traffic-jammed city in Canada—the streets are veritably swarming with cyclists who are, likewise, without the comfort of many cycling lanes. The only thing that prevents them from getting squished is a little bit of cultural tolerance—other than the Freeways, cyclists and pedestrians have the right of way there, with cars crawling slowly behind.

Such a cultural shift is unlikely in Edmonton, however, where drivers would sooner give up their first-born than lose their spot in the Tim Hortons drive-through. Instead, we




PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: TARA STIEGLITZ

**BRRRING BRRRING** There's no use ringing your bell—cars don't care about bikers.

should take a page from Ottawa's book, where wide, efficient bike lanes abound. Bicycle-commuting is a viable option in our nation's capital (as is skating to work in the winter), and it's a safer, better-designed, less congested city for it.

All Edmonton would need to do to get to a similar level is replace parking

lanes with biking lanes—an unpopular decision, perhaps, with the driving crowd, but certainly not a crippling one. Such a move may even encourage a few more people to start biking themselves, once it becomes less dangerous. And perhaps most importantly, no Tim Hortons drive-throughs would have to be bulldozed in the process.



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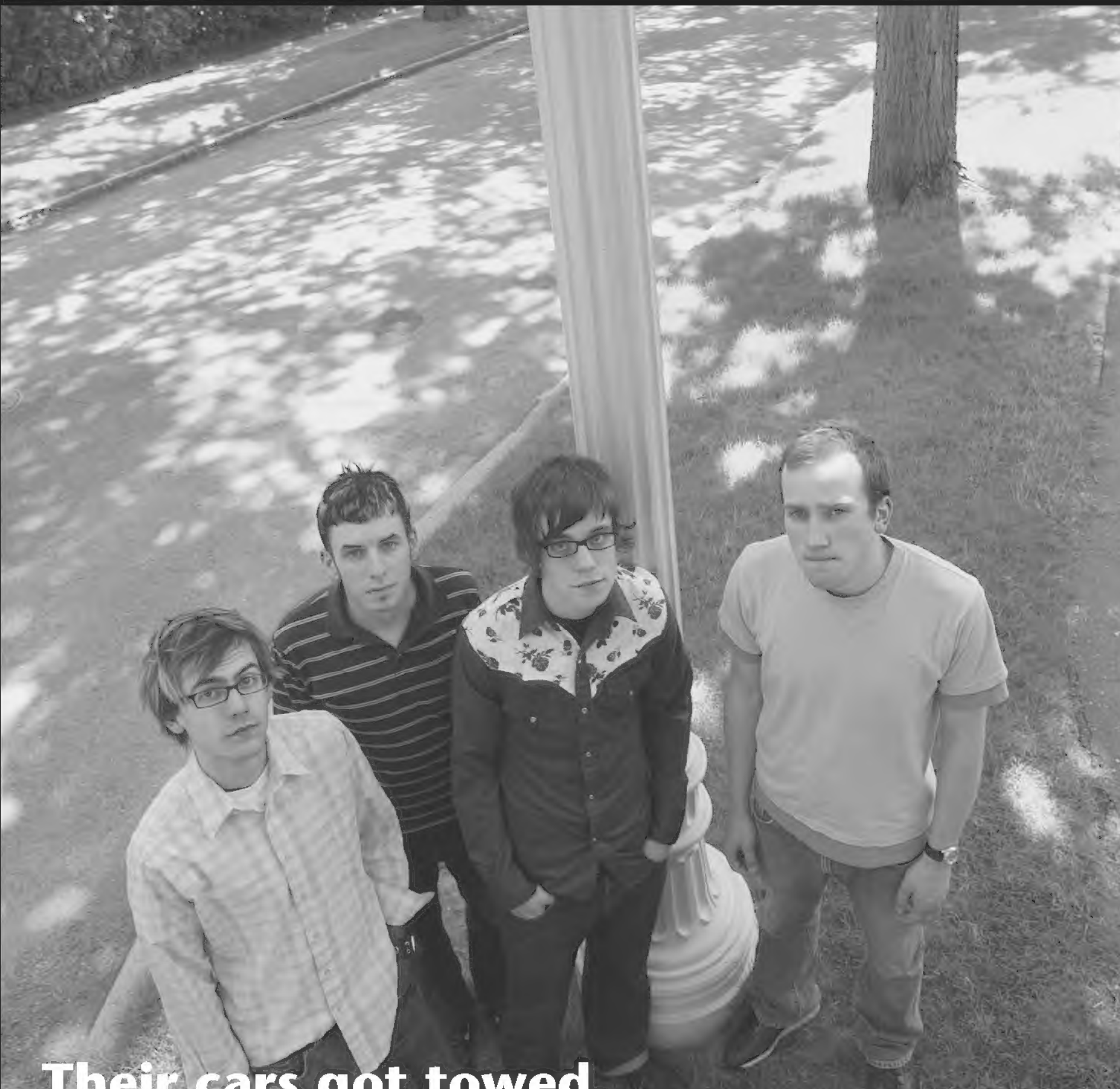
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## EDMONTON



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**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**



# Parents opposed to HPV vaccine for exactly the wrong reasons

SCOTT  
LILWALL

**“An HPV vaccine simply isn’t the same as rolling out the welcome mat for sexual activity, any more than a tetanus vaccine encourages kids to play tag in junkyards or seats belts condone street racing. It’s simply another health concern that can be addressed before it becomes a life-changing tragedy.”**

I generally do my best to step out of the conversation when things turn to religion. I think what one chooses to believe—or not to believe—is a private matter that I really don’t wish to discuss. Plus, on a more selfish note, it quickly gets tiring to listen to the long sermons from the holier-than-thou types, or the equally annoying “I’m too smart for superstition” lectures from the other side.

Regardless of what I might say after a pint or six, I’m not all-knowing on all matters. I’d really rather just believe what I think is right, and leave others to do the same.

That said, there are some times where both sides of the debate need to take a step back and scale down the zealotry. Secular activists who foam at the mouth at the hint of anything religious is one example. And times when common sense and logic are tossed out the window in the name of religious ideology and wishful thinking, such as in the case of some Ontario schools, is another.

In a disturbingly close 4–3 vote, the Halton Catholic District school board decided not to ban public health officials from administering a vaccine for human papillomavirus (HPV). The vaccine has been shown to be extremely effective in

protecting against the four strains of HPV that cause the vast majority of cervical cancer cases in Canada. The Ontario government has joined several other provinces in adding the vaccine to the list of those administered to school-aged children, as it’s most effective when given to girls before they become sexually active.

Some of those who supported the ban—school board trustees and parents alike—cited concerns over the long-term side effects of the vaccine: questions that are not only valid to ask, but essential. The Ontario government certainly jumped the gun when it came to approving the vaccine, as the Canadian Immunization Committee has not yet made a recommendation on its safety. As well, new drug trials and accounts are beginning to show that serious complications can arise because of the vaccine. Others point out that there are treatments in development that might provide better protection from more strains of HPV.

However, many of those that were calling for the ban were less concerned with the physical consequences, and more with what message may be sent by allowing the vaccines. Some argue that the mere act of allowing the vaccines is implicitly condoning promiscuity.

Such an argument, unfortunately, is utter horseshit. An HPV vaccine simply isn’t the same as rolling out the welcome mat for sexual activity, any more than a tetanus vaccine encourages kids to play tag in junkyards or seats belts condone street racing. It’s simply another health concern that can be addressed before it becomes a life-changing tragedy.

Sure, as abstinence-education supporters are always repeating, refraining from sex also protects against STDs, but there comes a point where one has to face up to reality: Teenagers have sex. It’d be just wonderful if they could all be sexually responsible, but let’s be honest with ourselves: adolescence isn’t a period that’s known for level-headed, reasoned judgement—not to mention the fact that all the abstinence education in the world can’t protect against sexual assault or marrying someone already infected with HPV.

Demand more research on possible side effects. Look at alternatives. Encourage kids to think before jumping into bed with someone. That’s all dandy. But don’t stick your heads in the sand and wish you lived in a world where kids don’t have sex. Because that’s not education; it’s not even spiritual guidance. It’s just denial. And it can be deadly.

## Canadian dollar’s power-level over 9000

Well, technically it’s at 98.5 cents US, but the fact remains that we’re kicking ass

PAUL  
BLINOV

new trading routes. One perk of global warming is that the Northwest passage is gradually opening up more and more, creating a brand new trading route with other nations in the world. Outside the US, Canada’s biggest trading partners are Japan and Britain.

**But now that the US has to pay almost one-to-one, they’ll start to explore less costly trading partners—except for the fact that what they primarily need from us is our oil, and where else are they going to get it? Iraq?**

However, with a more northern trade route, Russia and Scandinavia become viable future trading partners. And with the loonie looking better than ever, Canada’s in a great position to return the favour and start importing new goods.

In fact, America’s spot as our ideal trading partner is starting to fade. Setting the long, unguarded border aside, the Land of the Free is in crisis mode, racking up monumental amounts of debt while struggling on social levels as a country of divided ideals. Their status as the sheriff in town is a holdover from the

Cold War, and a stereotype that no longer stands up. They’re stretching their resources too thin, dealing with internal problems while trying to battle external ones.

But just because we’re right next door doesn’t mean we have to fuel such an unstable structure. I’m not talking about cutting all trade ties, but exploring new trading opportunities seems wiser than watching as the American economy collapses in on itself, dragging us down with it.

You could argue that NAFTA is more than enough reason to stick it out—after all, we’re getting tariff-free trading with only a border to cross. But with the US not really holding up to their end of the bargain (despite Canada winning its case in the NAFTA tribunal, the Americans have yet to relinquish their duty tax on Canadian softwood lumber exports), this doesn’t inspire the greatest confidence in our border-pals—especially with America’s dollar dropping like it’s hot. It seems like a desperate grab at trying to sustain themselves by using Canada—as we can’t just cut them off—to help uphold their superpower image.

Canada’s way too dependent on trading with a nation that hasn’t built a bridge over its own troubled waters. As our dollar rises to equal their own, the timing seems perfect to start exploring new countries to increase trade with, so that if something genuinely catastrophic happened south of the border, we wouldn’t go down too. Those who fear the dollar’s rise have got to learn to stop worrying and love the loonie.

## Loss, Trauma, & Dreams

If you have experienced a significant loss or trauma during the last two months, you may be eligible to participate in a study of loss, trauma, and impactful dreams being conducted by Dr. Don Kuiken of the Department of Psychology, University of Alberta.

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If you are interested, please contact Joanna Czupryn for more information ([jczupryn@ualberta.ca](mailto:jczupryn@ualberta.ca); 492-7806).

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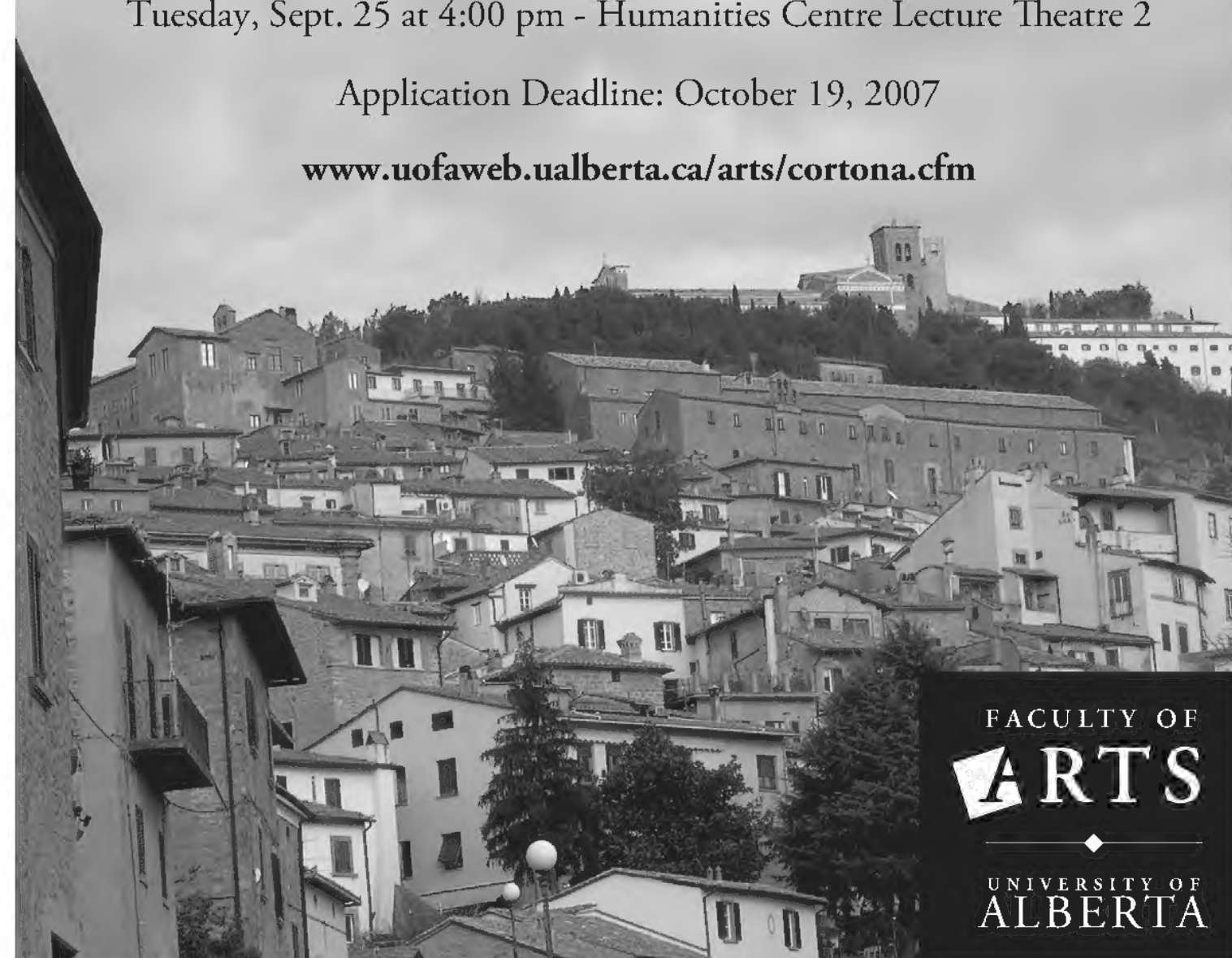
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# WEEKEND OF THE LIVING DEAD

**T**here were a number of things I should have attended to this weekend: there's an IKEA dresser I still need to build, my roommates had a campfire in the backyard, and I probably should have bought my textbooks. Instead, I walked down to the Varscona Theatre to watch Die-Nasty's 53-hour improvised Soap-A-Thon—in its entirety. From 6pm Friday night until Sunday at 11pm, I was there taking it all in, trying to fend off sleep, and upholding questionable levels of hygiene. While I've experienced 24-hour improv sessions of a similar nature, it wasn't something I could fall back on—especially when I'd never managed to make it through without sawing logs. Here's how it went.

**6PM FRIDAY** The stage is dimly lit. Michael Jackson's "Thriller" announces the beginning of the show, but the room is only half-full. Despite it being primetime hours—when the improv still promises to be quality, and not sleep-deprived—only about two thirds of the theatre's seats have asses in them. In the lobby hangs a chalkboard, ready to record how long each actor manages to perform for. It's updated during the 15-minute breaks that happen every two hours, which also give us a chance to track down food or use the bathroom.

A bed sits stage right, a cruel reminder of the sleep that the cast, the most hardcore audience members, and I'll all be missing out on this weekend. The band and narrator take to the side of the stage, introducing the starting cast of characters one by one with guitar flourishes and witty lines. These introductions will happen after every break to help us keep track of who's playing—and who's still awake.



**10PM FRIDAY** A few hours in, the initial plot threads generated by each character are beginning to stitch themselves into a general outline, and romantic feelings are shaping themselves into your standard two-girls-love-the-same-boy-who-just-wants-a-threesome situations. The audience is pretty full, and it's surprising how relaxed everybody on stage appears. Not to say that the actors are fading in energy—far from it, as they scamper, kiss, and shout—but nothing they do feels forced or rushed. Scenes are just playing out, and the end goal of Sunday night is miles away, giving the cast a seemingly infinite amount of time to explore characters and relationships.

Under the pretense of making a zombie movie in fictional the town of Cadaver, AB plot arcs are born, rear up, and settle back down. A town member is hit by a car, spends an hour of actual time in an onstage coma, recuperates, then picks up right where she left off.

**2 AM SATURDAY** During the 15-minute break, I finally crack open an energy drink, that holy water of late-night gamers everywhere. Feeling its cream-soda-esque sugar rush down my throat is like an ignition for my consciousness, but I only really snap out of my drowsy haze when an intoxicated friend shows up with second one.

By this point, story progress has slowed to a crawl. Tangent after subplot after new character is introduced, justified, and incorporated, all while the overarching plot flops around in the background, making real progress in only a few scenes.

A significant number of the original characters are notoriously absent—sleeping, presumably, those lucky bastards—while the rest of the cast diligently carries on. Even the most stone-faced improvisers are beginning to crack under sleep deprivation, laughing on stage and taking more and more time to compose themselves. The audience has thinned; people are yawning, and those that remain are napping during the breaks.



WRITTEN BY PAUL BLINOV

## METHODS FOR KEEPING AWAKE

**EATING REAL FOOD:** Surviving on sugar alone will only set you up for a big crash. Remember the food pyramid, and eat accordingly.

**ENERGY DRINKS:** Not particularly healthy, but in concentrated doses—ie multiple cans—you'll find your eyelids fastened to your eyebrows for hours.

**STABBING YOUR ARM WITH A PEN:** A grim, painful last line of defence, but if you perfect your pokes—using just enough force to cause genuine pain without breaking skin—it's an effective method for avoiding shut-eye. Just be ready for countless tiny blue spots resembling the track marks of a smack-addicted Cookie Monster dotting your arm.

## THE STATS

- 6:** Total hours slept
- 5:** Energy drinks consumed
- 2:** Number of times I hallucinated that someone was beside me when alone
- 5:** Number of Trips made to 7-Eleven





**4 AM SATURDAY** Heading into this next two-hour block, its title—the Hours of Gratuitous Nudity—lent too much leeway to my imagination, and prodded my consciousness with questions, like “how naked are we talking?” and—well, that’s pretty much it.

This timeslot started off with the promise of raunch: an actress’ shirt came off not five minutes in, and although her bra covered any actual nudity, the collective male portions of the audience grinned from ear to ear. One dude in the audience booed when it came back on, and I couldn’t help but silently echo his sentiments. We were promised gratuitous amounts of nudity, weren’t we?

And so it went, with little teases, dropped pants, and shirtlessness, but nothing that was genuinely graphic. A prosthetic penis was used in a variety of ways, but there was no real skin for the first while. An hour passed, and I’d just about written the Hours of Gratuitous Nudity off as being plain old 14A when out popped a pair of testicles. It was gross, hilarious, and, at 5am, less mortifying than you’d expect such a sight to be.

Testes were as vulgar as it got, however—much to the disappointment of the whistling male audience- members. Spurred on by the theme of the hour, a few more romantic complications cropped up, pairs of pants flew off, and a bunny suit was worn in the context of good ol’ furry love-making. After all, who doesn’t love yiffing? Me, weirdos, that’s who. It’s creepy.



**7<sup>30</sup> AM SATURDAY** The sugar and caffeine of my energy drinks are finally wearing off, and I’m starting to fade in and out, having trouble focusing on the onstage action. I’ve taken to stabbing at my arm with a pen to retain consciousness—it works for a while, but then just leaves me sore.

On stage, they’ve started to shoot the movie now, meaning some progress is happening plot-wise. Unfortunately, there are only eight or so semi-conscious audience members to follow dimly along. I regret not taking a pre-show nap Friday afternoon. I’m approaching the 24-hour mark myself, though I’ve only been here for about 15.

The label on the energy drink that I’m consuming tells me I shouldn’t drink more than one litre’s worth per day. Now that I’m cracking open my third, I may have already passed that mark—but is a day defined simply as a 24-hour period, or does that include the body’s recovery time spent sleeping? Whatever the answer is, I’ll find out soon.



**9<sup>30</sup> AM SATURDAY** I awake to scattered laughter and applause. Crap. I don’t actually know how long I was out for, but that time apparently included some kind of mis-adventure to Drumheller and a few new characters getting tossed into the mix. The improvisers currently outnumber the audience. I finish off the energy drink I started before I had passed out, and, with the residual flavour of taurine staining my teeth, I wonder whether or not I remembered to bring my toothbrush. After searching my bag, the answer is, regrettably, no.



**11 AM SATURDAY** The audience has gained a few warm bodies. I’m starting to get hungry but don’t want to go to the 7-Eleven again.

**4<sup>30</sup> PM SATURDAY** A moose just crucified a man. I laugh hard, and then question what this weekend’s turning me into.

**10 PM SATURDAY** The Varscona’s almost full again, and with the increased audience comes a renewed energy in the improvisers. There’s a chalkboard in the lobby that lists who’s stayed up for how long, and some of these people have been going for 28 hours straight.

At the same time, staying up is a little easier for them than the audience—after all, they move around, talk, interact, and work their brains while we sit silently in our seats and just take it all in. Earlier in the day, a Hunter S Thompson character appeared—a perfect representation of this weekend long improv bender. They can’t stop here—this is improv country.

**12AM SUNDAY** Some random fellow whom I’ve been chatting with periodically throughout the weekend brings me Timbits and apple juice. I owe you, man, wherever you are.



**6AM SUNDAY** The second block of themed hours is upon us—the Zombie Attack hour. Whenever a certain sound rings out, everyone not currently in the scene rushes the stage—except for one cast member who, whether due to sleep deprivation or sheer hilarity, would just snatch the prop TV each time and walk off.

Despite the comedy—which is holding up impressively well into hour 36—I’m barely awake, and I’ve caught myself slack-jawed and drooling multiple times. Not that I’m alone—the rest of the assembled audience is in various states of consciousness. I feel like a zombie myself



**10AM SUNDAY** As morning number two dawns, the audience is a small but dedicated one. Traditional theatre etiquette is out the window: legs are kicked up over adjacent seats, and I’m sprawled out over two or three. Comfort’s the top priority at this point, though my theatre seat has held up well considering I’ve been planted in it for more than a day.

**5<sup>30</sup> PM SUNDAY** The theatre put some free food out in the lobby for those of us still hanging on. Cold pizza, carrot sticks, hummus—leftovers from backstage, no doubt, but who cares? At this point it’s either these free goods, or more of 7-Eleven’s hyper-processed foods that come with a price tag. I gorge on cold pizza, and it’s never felt so good. On the chalkboard, a few 46s sit proudly next to their corresponding names. Disappointingly, mine is not one of them.

**8PM SUNDAY** Three hours remain. It’s almost the end, and everyone is feeling it. The same is true of the plot: all of the love-triangles have been resolved, the onstage movie is almost finished, and the actors seem to be picking up with the end in sight. They’re making in-jokes for those of us who have been here for the long haul, and although the rest of the quickly filling audience chuckle at the seemingly random absurdity of a man digging his testicles out with a spoon, those of us who haven’t left laugh a little harder, as we know this didn’t just come out of nowhere—it was first established more than a day ago.



**11PM SUNDAY** In the final hours, time’s finally an issue. The action gets absolutely madcap as the cast scrambles to tie up any and all remaining loose ends. There’s a chase that leads into, over, and through the audience, which has by now swelled to near capacity.

The last hour is the “movie” that’s been in production for 52 hours, and it speeds by. The cast takes a bow and thanks the audience, the techs, a few audience cameos, and the three of us who managed to stay there the entire time.

When I leave the Varscona, there’s a gentle rain coming down, and I’m left to contemplate the weekend as I zero in on my bed. Although a good sleep’s my top priority, I can’t help but feel a little bittersweet about leaving the theatre behind. Over 53 hours, I watched a group of dedicated actors create an entire world of their own. We saw them meet, fall in love, make love on the bed, break up, find new love, make a movie, get kind of naked, leave the movie, be assaulted by zombies, and dig their testicles out with a spoon. That isn’t something you can find anywhere, and it wouldn’t have meant the same in spaced out, smaller doses. The Soap-A-Thon took up my entire weekend; but in exchange, I got to bear witness to a group of actors truly living in a world of their own—one that lasted long after other plays had lowered the curtains.

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488-6622

Westgrove Shopping Centre  
14822 Stony Plain Rd.  
443-3022

Edmonton City Centre  
10200 – 102 Ave.  
421-4540

##### EAST

Capilano Mall  
(outside entrance by Safeway)  
450-6880

Millwoods Main Street Mall  
6558 – 28 Ave. (by Tim Horton's)  
440-2812

6839 – 83 St. (Argyll Rd.)  
465-5271

##### SOUTH

6031 Gateway Blvd.  
438-2355

Southgate Centre  
434-5620

Southgate Centre  
439-0435

South Edmonton Common  
485-9812

3120 Parsons Rd.  
702-6001

Hub Mall  
9004 – 112 St.  
432-3108

##### NORTH

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456-5339

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443-3040

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483-8838

10013 – 170 St.  
408-8917

Mayfield Common  
10608 – 170 St.  
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740 St. Albert Rd.  
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11020 – 100 Ave.  
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Londonderry Mall  
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Northgate Mall  
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## A LOOK BACK....

On September 3rd and 4th, 570 volunteers, lead by a staff of 7, welcomed over 5000 new students to the University of Alberta campus. The new students came from high school, from other post secondary institutions, or were returning to university after a period of time off. Some were moving into Residence, others were living on their own for the first time, and some were living with their parents and adapting to the new university environment. Despite their differences, all of these students had one thing in common – they were all new to the University of Alberta. The mission of the Orientation program is to create a positive educational and personal experience for new University of Alberta students. The program seeks to successfully aid in the transition of new students into University life and integrate them into the University of Alberta campus and community. With the help of our 570 dedicated volunteers, Orientation 2007 was a huge success.

## TO THE NEW STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED ORIENTATION 2007:

By choosing to attend Orientation you have given yourself a great head start to being successful at the University of Alberta. We truly hope that you learned a few things from our presentations, as well as how to navigate the U of A campus and were made aware of all of the services that exist to help you succeed. Most of all, we hope that you had fun, and met a wonderful group of friends. Best of luck in the next year and welcome to the University of Alberta community!

## TO THE 570 ORIENTATION VOLUNTEERS:

Orientation would not run in any way, shape, or form without the help of you all! Your dedication and enthusiasm is unparalleled and we cannot thank you enough, but we will try our best!

## A THANK YOU TO THE PRESENTERS:

This year, the quality and entertainment value of the presentations was nothing short of amazing. We would like to thank all the Presenters and Computer Session Coordinators for their unbelievable commitment to the program over the summer months as well as all the hard work that was put in. Everyone should be proud of what they have created as individual groups and as presenters as a whole. Once again, thank you for making Orientation 2007 a blast!

## A THANK YOU TO THE PROGRAM ASSISTANTS:

This year, twenty-three volunteers in blue t-shirts worked hard to make Orientation run without a hitch. These volunteers are none other than the OPAs! These dedicated volunteers ran our information tents, handed out prizes, helped run registrations, were Patches and GUBA and were the stagehands of Orientation. We would like to thank all of the OPAs for their hard work and dedication! We couldn't have done this without you!!

## A THANK YOU TO THE MUG &amp; PSEUDO MUG LEADERS:

We would like to thank the My Undergraduate Group Leaders for all of their hard work. Each and every one of them has put in many hours to make this year's MUGs program a huge success. However, their work is not finished yet, as they still have the whole year to inspire and help new students. Thus, we are also thanking them for all the work they are about to do, for they are truly amazing volunteers.

We would also like to thank the Pseudo MUG Leaders for the enthusiasm, time and dedication they have given to support the MUGs program during Orientation. Without their extra help, the MUGs program could not be the success it is today.

## A THANK YOU TO THE TEAM FACILITATORS:

Each of our thirty-eight Team Facilitators has worked tirelessly over the past nine months to help us recruit, select and train all of our other volunteers. Their leadership, dedication and passion are truly inspiring and we would like to thank them so very much! This tight group of volunteers also plans social events for their volunteers, oversees the creation and performance of our fabulous presentations and ensures the behind the scenes workings run smoothly. We value every moment you have devoted to Orientation 2007 and would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

## A THANK YOU TO THE HIGH SCHOOL AND BTU ORIENTATION LEADERS:

Our hard working High School and Bridge to the University Orientation Leaders are on the front lines of our program. They interact directly with our delegates, for whom we put on this program. We could not run Orientation in the manner we do, without each and every one of our OLs. This fantastic group of volunteers brings their experience, knowledge and enthusiasm for the U of A to Orientation and uses it to ensure our new students get the best welcome they possibly can. Thank you so very much!

## A THANK YOU TO THE ORIENTATION PHOTOGRAPHERS:

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then our Orientation Photographers help us to write volumes about our volunteers and delegates. They work non-stop for four days to capture the magic of Orientation for all to see. Their expertise ensures we have hundreds of photographs to remember all the Orientation 2007 fun and hard work and we thank them for all of their contributions.

## Have a great year and thanks again!

## THE ORIENTATION STAFF,

Karla Barron, CSD Manager – New Student Programs  
Dranna Brown, CSD Manager – Non-traditional Student Programs  
Blake Babcock, Orientation Programs Coordinator  
Amissa Jablonski, Orientation Volunteer Coordinator  
Christina Moeller, Orientation Administrative Coordinator  
Alvina Mardhani, MUGs Coordinator  
Sarah Kennedy, Campus Ambassadors Coordinator

~ORIENTATION 2007~









# Orientation

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR ORIENTATION SPONSORS FOR THEIR TREMENDOUS SUPPORT!













# THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR AWESOME WORK!

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Zoë Andresen  
Kellen Antoniuik  
Ghazaleh Ashrafi  
Maya Atallah  
Allyson Bachinsky  
Giulia Baer  
Serena Bains  
Laina Balser  
Nadiya Balukh  
Claire Anne Banzon  
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Anna Marie Beatrch  
Jessica Beatty  
Matthew Benesch  
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Darius Dastouri  
Mishma David  
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Zetan Du  
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Amelia Ethier  
Fatima Faizi  
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Erin Faught  
Kathleen Ferguson  
Meagan Fleming  
Tyler Fletcher  
Mathew Fok Yew Min  
Anthony Fontaine  
Jennifer Forbes  
Stephanie Jane Frazer  
Paul Freund  
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Anita Fung  
Joyce Fung  
Majeda Fyith  
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Ian Gauthier  
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Melanie Legare  
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Andrew Rogan  
Cassandra Roshier  
Allison Rosland  
Megan Ross  
Tess Rutledge  
Kristen Sabourin  
Trina Salvisberg  
Michael Samycia  
Janine Sandersen  
Arundeeep Singh Sandhu  
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Katherine Schock  
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## BRIDGE TO THE UNIVERSITY ORIENTATION LEADERS

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Heather Woodman  
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Samantha Balzer  
Melissa Baron  
Susan Basaraba  
Lorna Bennett  
Jaime Bury  
Ian Bushfield  
Gina Bussoli  
Torrey Dance  
David Eastman  
Allen Feng  
Matteo Hee  
Jeanine Hoffart  
Nancy Jacobsen  
Stephen Kallir  
Justin Kiew  
Sara Larson  
Stephen Lee  
Nicholas Leibel  
Max Levine  
An Luong  
Marc Messier-Peet  
Lane Mitchelmore  
Nicole Morter  
Kathleen Parry  
Clare Patershuk  
Catrinel Popescu  
Sameer Rajwani  
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Melanie Gauthier  
Yodit Ghebrehiet  
Kelsey Hill  
Sylvia Hoang  
Vanessa Horne  
Marlee Lameris  
Andrea McMillan  
Nichole Mertick  
Ashley Moroz  
Michelle Morrow  
Clifton Price  
Sharon Riley  
Brittany Shank  
Jennifer Ursella  
Navid Vafaei-Najafabadi  
Kaelynn Wagner  
Rachel White  
Selene Yan  
Andrea Yu

## ORIENTATION PRESENTERS

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Alan Cliff  
Peter Dushenski  
Prem Erubetene  
Amanda Farquharson  
Robyn Ferguson  
Jillian Fusco  
Jonathan Gagnon  
Lily Hall  
April Harrison  
Charles Heard  
Qasim Hirani  
Cassandra Hirt  
Daniel Huckstep  
Rhys Kustra  
Jessica Lam  
Amanda Leaf  
Jennifer Lee  
Queenie Lee  
Wing Li  
Amy Macdonald  
Kelsey MacLeod  
Alena Manera  
Shinji Marumo

Steven Melenchuk  
David Morley  
Maura Mulcair  
Mark Parsons  
Ryan Payne  
Karabo Pilane  
Jake Prins  
Gina Ressler  
Andrew Ritchie  
Nicholas Ritchie  
Kirstyn Schmidt  
Andrey Sokolov  
Natalia Szykarczuk  
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Kevin Tok  
Karen Wheeler  
Graeme Wicentowich  
Dinesh Witharana  
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Ellen Chung  
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Amy Couperthwaite  
Andrew Esposito  
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Cheryl Lo  
Julia Luu  
Amber Newman  
Angela Ng  
Edmund Ngo  
Diana Quang  
Curtis Tracey

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Lauren Stieglitz  
Nick Weibe

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Sable Chan  
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Curtis Clark  
Bryan Dussault  
Alyssa England  
Farrah Esmaeil  
Angela Espejo  
Morgan Farr  
Terence Fung  
Jacqueline Geller  
Tyler Grzech  
Katie Hayes  
Michael Kapusta  
Marion Kilgour  
Pearl Kinch  
Christa King  
Jackson Lo  
Katharine Millar  
Libriel Padilla  
Jasmin Parmar  
Stephanie Pelech  
Karen Prezelj  
David Roper  
Megan Sherstan  
Caley Shukalek  
Lorraine Smith  
Courtney Spelliscy  
Vanessa Sztym  
Kelli Taylor  
Shad Thevanaz  
Ryan Tucker  
Richelle Walsh  
Vicki Xu  
Sarah Younus  
Carina Zorrilla

~ORIENTATION 2007~



## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### The Plain Dealers

With Guests  
Friday, 21 September at 7pm  
Starlite Room

The Plain Dealers claim a wide variety of influences, from Johnny Cash to Iron Maiden. Their music, however, seems to be significantly more Man in Black and considerably less Eddie. Having released their self-titled EP at the beginning of the summer, this Edmonton quintet is taking their roots rock to the Starlite stage for their first show after the summer. But if you're lucky, they may switch things up a bit and play a little "Number of the Beast" or "Die With Your Boots On"—particularly if you yell "Play some Maiden!" loudly between songs. That always works.

### The Whyte Movie

Saturday, 22 September at 8:30pm  
Sir Winston Churchill Square  
Free Screening

Billed as "the greatest film ever made about Edmonton and Edmontonians," *The Whyte Movie* uses the Oilers' 2006 playoff run to tell the tale of the people in the City of Champions. In a change of direction, the film focuses on the positive aspects of the city as it supported its team, rather than the flaming phone booths and vandalism that dominated headlines. The film claims to be "stunning" and "historical," and the engrossing cinematic overture, trumpeted by those who have witnessed it, will allow you to truly capture a realistic and stylized look at the experience of being an Edmontonian.



### Jethro Tull

Tuesday, 25 September at 6:30pm  
Jubilee Auditorium

The best band ever named after the inventor of a mechanical planting device, music legends Jethro Tull come to town this week to sow the seeds of classic rock at the Jubilee. Everyone and their dad—especially their dad—loves Ian Anderson's whimsical electric flute-playing and the band's progressive rock sensibilities. While you may be thinking, "My God, they're still alive?", the group is indeed still going strong after 40 years, with Anderson not yet singing "Aqualung" from an iron lung.

### The Toasters

With Saint Alivia Cartel, The Peacocks, and The Flatliners  
Tuesday, 25 September at 8pm  
Starlite Room, 18+

There are a lot of crappy toasters out there. You know, the ones where you have to push your toast down, like, three times before it turns brown. Just like toasters, there are a lot of bad ska bands out there, and you have to sift through a lot of junk before you find the band that will turn your toast brown, or something ska-like.

That band is, without coincidence, The Toasters, who were part of the initial rush of third wave ska bands back in the early '80s. Celebrating their 25th anniversary, the New York-based band just released *One More Bullet*, and bill themselves as the "Longest Running US Ska Band"—though it's uncertain as to what other country's ska band has been around longer than a quarter-century.

JOHN KMECH  
Note the double 'n'



STEFFI ROSSKOPF

# The Maids sweep through social identity

## theatrepreview

### The Maids

Runs 20–29 September  
Written by Jean Genet  
Directed by Ian Leung  
Starring Garrett Ross, Rylan Wilkie, and Nick Green  
Timms Centre

MARIA KOTOVYCH  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

In blood-stained situations of murder most foul, some people are quick to place blame squarely on the butler's shoulders. Sometimes it isn't the butler. Sometimes, the maids might be at fault.

Jean Genet's play *The Maids* is loosely based on the true story of the Papin sisters: in the play, maids Solange and Claire are very unhappy living under the servitude of their mistress, Madame, whose feelings towards them is ambiguous throughout. As a coping mechanism to deal with their hatred towards Madame, the maids take turns role-playing Madame in her absence.

"In the ritual they perform, the mistress that they create is a much more horrible mistress than the one we actually see," Ian Leung, the MFA Directing candidate in charge of *The Maids* says. "They resort to this imaginary exercise to get at their very real frustrations, but things have been building and building for them, and a lot of their fantasies may come true in real life."

But as their fantasies get more violent, and the lines dividing them from reality start to fade, Solange and Claire decide to murder their mistress. While Leung emphasizes that *The Maids* can be interpreted in many ways, he himself looks to the play's themes regarding social identities.

**"All [Genet's] plays deal with relationships of power between those oppressed, or those who are ruled over or constrained by the system, and those who wield the power."**

IAN LEUNG  
MFA DIRECTING CANDIDATE

"For me, [the play] is chipping away at the idea of social identities as 'being fixed,'" Leung says. "We choose them; we have them imposed on us. They're coping mechanisms, but in a lot of ways, they're arbitrary—they're not real."

"The maids are so entrapped by their identity as maids that they'll never be able to overcome their condition because they have no idea how to be anything other than maids," he continues. "If they were ever put in a position of power, they would be waiting for somebody to give them orders."

Leung also emphasizes the importance of mystery and rituals inherent in *The Maids*. The play intertwines the ideas of theatre and social identity—Genet wanted to bring back

the idea of theatre-based in ritual. He was writing at a time when everything in the world was explained by science, and, according to Leung, he wanted to bring mystery back into people's lives. With an ambiguous ending and rampant symbolism, *The Maids* presses a mystery on to audiences, leaving them with something to discuss afterwards.

"[Genet] wanted theatre to be the opposite of life," Leung explains. "He wanted to point out the fact that theatre is fake, not real, [which is] what he thought was wonderful about it."

Additionally, this play contains an undercurrent of subversive political themes, particularly those regarding power, dominance, and subjugation. Leung explains that the play depicts power roles as being about theatre; for instance, the maids deal with rising in status to embody Madame, performing her upper-class role and trained, proper gestures for each other's enjoyment.

"Genet was very much an outsider, and he identified with oppressed people, and he wanted the play to be about more than just maids," Leung says. "The maids were a metaphor for other things. All his plays deal with relationships of power between the oppressed, or those who are ruled over or constrained by the system, and those who wield the power."

However, Leung stresses that despite the heady themes presented in *The Maids*, the performance also has another side to it.

"I do also want the play to be an entertainingly presented story, and that's one of the things that I'm shooting for. I want the audience to come and have fun—while they're being disturbed."



# THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 6 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, 20 september, 2007



MIKE OTTO

**FAKING IT ALL WEEKEND LONG** A&E editor Paul Blinov braved Die-Nasty's Soap-A-Thon this past weekend—all 53 hours of it. For the lowdown of all the caffeine-fuelled comedy, turn to page 12.

## Former SU prez put on probation

Protesters crash oil company's campus recruitment

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

A former University of Alberta Students' Union President was banned from campus for life when a group of radical cheerleaders stormed a Shell recruitment drive on 12 September.

Mike Hudema, who was SU President in 2002/03, said that he, along with fellow anti-tar sands activists, went into Dinwoodie Lounge in "cheerleader fashion" between the event's introductory speech and the speech by a Shell member of tar sands operations.

"We basically went in and performed three *amazing* songs about how we need to get off our oil addiction [and] how much damage the tar sands are causing," said Hudema, who graduated from the U of A Faculty of Law in 2004. He explained that the group marched off as soon as they were asked to leave, at which point he asked one of the organizers whether he could stay to listen to the speech.

"I wanted to see how Shell would respond," he said. "[But] in about four minutes Campus Security came up, asked me and Samantha Power to step outside—we did so—and eventually I was given a trespass notice and told that I was never allowed on campus again."

According to Hudema, Campus Security explained that the Radical

Cheerleaders group had disrupted a paid event by Shell, and they told him he would have to wait half a year before being able to submit an appeal regarding his lifetime ban from University property.

**"... I was given a trespass notice and told that I was never allowed on campus again."**

**MIKE HUDEMA**  
RADICAL CHEERLEADER  
2002/03 SU PRESIDENT

"I went to Campus Security as soon as I was given the trespass notice, and I asked about how I could appeal, and they said I was still on university property and if I wanted to find out about the appeal process, I could call," Hudema said. "I was anticipating that I would be basically be banned from campus for six months."

Hudema then wasted no time in spreading the word of his exiled status, which resulted in what he considers to be a strong show of solidarity in support of the Radical Cheerleaders.

PLEASE SEE **PROBATION** ♦ PAGE 3

## U of A to get new wi-fi network

RYAN HEISE  
Deputy News Editor

Like many students, fourth-year Bioinformatics student James Leung uses his computer on campus regularly, and relies on the wireless networks provided by the University of Alberta to connect to the Internet. However, unreliable connections and sporadic coverage often make getting online a frustrating endeavour.

"It's just embarrassing how bad the wi-fi is in SUB," explained Leung, while his notebook computer sat idle in front of him. "I don't know what it is; it might be because everyone goes there and overloads the bandwidth."

However, the University is gearing up to change all that with a \$3.5-million investment in a new campus-wide wireless network.

"The reason we're doing it is really ... in response to what we're hearing from students, but also from the faculties in terms of wanting to have more untethered access to data and computing services," explained Dr Paul Sorenson, Vice-Provost and Vice-President (Information & Technology).

The new service will see a roll-out across campus over the next two years, beginning with Enterprise Square downtown. Following that, the new system will begin to find a home in newer buildings on campus, as they will be the easiest to retrofit. After the new buildings are addressed, high-traffic public areas like SUB and CAB will be updated with the new system as well.

Sorenson explained that the current



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAVID RIDLEY

**SPLIT ENDS** Going wireless is about to get a whole lot easier across campus.

ualberta wireless signals that exist as "islands" around the University are not ideal for the campus, as they require more maintenance compared to a larger, blanket network.

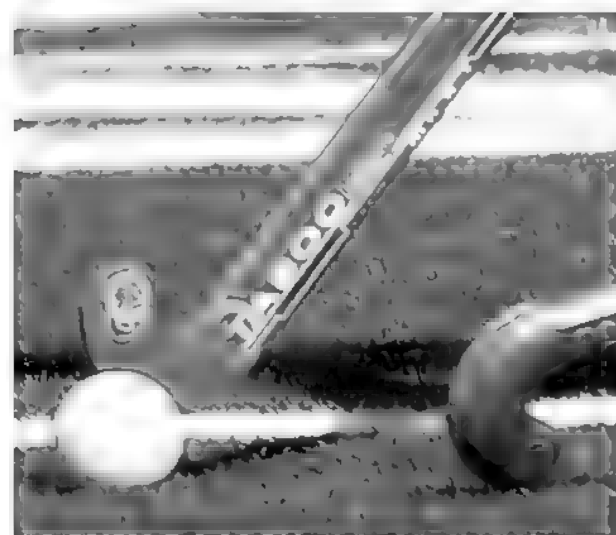
According to Sorenson, "increasing

the coverage and improving the service, in the sense of having a single service that will be more reliable and maintainable in the end," are the primary goals of the upgrade.

PLEASE SEE **WI-FI** ♦ PAGE 5

### Inside

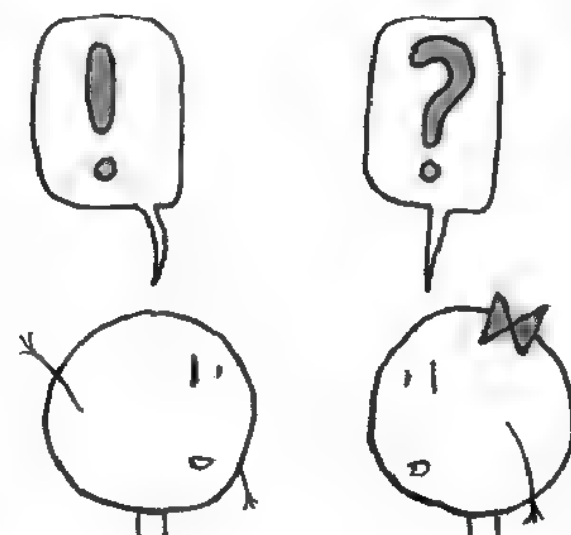
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### Circle & stick

Erin Mason spent eight months with the national field hockey team, but now she's back with the Pandas.

**SPORTS, PAGE 24**



### Peanut & Circle

If these two got together, their baby would speak in interrobangs—which, incidentally, are stupid.

**COMICS, PAGE 31**



# The Rocky Fortune not just lucky

## musicpreview

### The Rocky Fortune

With 40 Thieves and National Frost  
Saturday, 22 September at 8pm  
Velvet Underground

BRODY IRVINE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In the fertile, black dirt of the Prairies, many things grow. Wheat springs up to feed us; trees tower skywards to give us shade; and bands like The Rocky Fortune continue to mature and refine their own deeply rooted sounds.

The Calgary-based band has recently sprouted into a full five-piece with the addition of a couple new members on bass and keyboards. Todd Gesshue, the vocalist and guitarist, states the importance of the newly added defence of a full band.

"After we put out [debut album] *Sway* and our bass player left the band, it was like we went for five years playing short-handed," Gesshue explains. "It was like being two men short-handed;

You got no blueline. We've got a great blueline [now], which feels good. It feels like we can do a lot more."

Not only are there new band members, but the Rocky Fortune have a new album to celebrate as well. The band spent the last summer honing their sound for a new disc, *Back of the Bee-side*, and according to Gesshue, the Fortunes were ready to make it count.

Not that there was much to fix from *Sway*, but there were a few specifics: the whole record was recorded in analog, and all tracks were done in a single take, many of them the very first one. That might seem foolhardy, but when you're a small band trying to afford studio time, being concise is an asset.

"[In the past] we've limped in, and we've had engine problems and all these things, but when it was time to go into the studio, I realized that it was time to fix our machine," Gesshue says. "You're paying big bucks in a studio, so ... you get it done right."

Touring extensively in the past has allowed The Rocky Fortune to build up steam and make a name for themselves, having been named Best Song Finalists

in the 2006 Calgary Folk Festival Songwriting Contest. One might expect that think that they would be preparing for a winter tour to support the new album. However, a new tour isn't the case for these boys; they're taking a few months to rest and accomplish some personal goals that were put on the back-burner in the name of the band.

Gesshue sees the time off as a welcome change, as the life of a fulltime musician can start to weigh one down.

"I'm studying to become an arborist," Gesshue says. "It's making me a better writer. I found that [playing in a band fulltime] made me too narrow-minded. I wasn't learning anything new, and I was missing out on a lot of real life experience."

After putting in so much work, The Rocky Fortune are ready to have a stompin' good time—especially now that they've grown to their ideal size. Just don't let Gesshue hear you call them an alt-country band.

"We're constantly being tagged alt-country, [but] if you actually listen to our records, that's preposterous ... it's [more] like old folk music."



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AND SANTA'S AN ALCOHOLIC Rapid Fire Artistic Director Chris Craddock's ready to get audiences hopping.

# Improving on improv itself

Entering its 27th season, Rapid Fire Theatre is still serving up off-the-cuff laughter

## theatrepreview

### TheatreSports and Chimprov

Friday and Saturday nights at 11pm  
Varscona Theatre

KEVIN CHARLTON  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Many students have heard of the mysterious, scriptless theatre event called improv, either from friends who have seen a show or whispers heard in passing. Now, those who haven't caught such a show can finally start having the chance to experience this spectacle, as Rapid Fire Theatre is starting up their 2007 season.

"On a scale from 1–100, I'd say we average out at at least 86 per cent fun," Chris Craddock, artistic director of Rapidfire jokes. "[As for] the other 14 per cent, that loss can be attributed to factors outside of our control, such as poor dates, ill-chosen companions, drinking too much, and vomiting while at the theatre. That's a big night killer for not only you, but [for] some of us."

Since that percentage is probably significantly higher than most of the marks on your university transcript, they've got to be able to put on a hell of a show—something that just might be up your alley if the mood isn't right for a night out at the bar. Rapidfire's been going strong for more than two decades, and is Canada's second-oldest improv company, meaning you're pretty much

guaranteed a good laugh.

But despite the years of experience, according to Craddock, they still need your uninitiated ass in a seat for performance-improving purposes.

"We're only as good as the audience that shows up," Craddock says. "We find that university students make one of our most challenging audiences, and we really appreciate that."

"They push us to be a bit smarter with our improv," he elaborates. "Since improv is based on the theatre audience's suggestions at the time, it increases the amount of engagement that the audience has. People under 30 really flock to it, rather than other live theatre events where the traditional age tends to be well over 30, sometimes well over 50."

**"We're all trying to be the best improv ninjas we can be."**

CHRIS CRADDOCK  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, RAPIDFIRE THEATRE

When you can show up to the theatre in your street clothes—and perhaps slightly inebriated—you know that they have something fairly casual going on. However, after doing improv for years, one might expect the senior players grow bored, or to have performed scenes about pretty much everything. But Craddock explains that the performers find different ways to keep improvisation fresh for themselves.

"We just have to keep pushing ourselves and make sure we're getting better and going back to pick up the skills that we left behind the first time," he says. "We're all trying to be the best improv ninjas we can be."

The Rapidfire Theatre cast comes from all walks of life and have a lot of different levels of experience: senior players have as many as 20 years of improv experience, while younger members are straight out of high school. They do have practices, but Craddock maintains that doesn't mean meticulously planning out shows in advance—it just means working on the skills required to improvise.

"We get together and do a workshop where we highlight a particular skill—or narrative thrust, or genre, or whatever it is we're trying to work on—and we focus on it," he explains. "In the workshop environment, you don't have the audience to entertain so you're free [from] some of the kinds of pressures you might be aired to otherwise."

With no scripts and wild variations in the ages and skill levels of the improvisers, the show promises to be completely different every time—although some similarities can be seen throughout shows, some more revealing than others.

"They can expect high energy, to laugh, to be charmed," Craddock explains. "They can expect to see audience suggestions transformed into hilarity before their very eyes: they can expect political humour, they can expect things that are a little bit racy, and they can sometimes expect mild displays of nudity."

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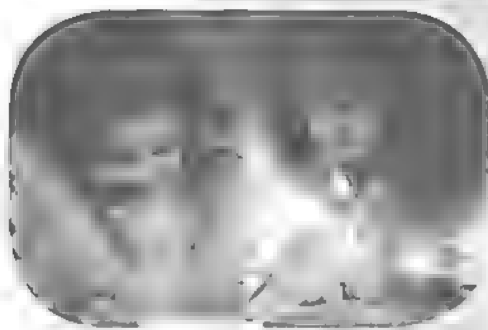


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# Jury's still out on winner of second Polaris Prize

While waiting for the announcement on 24 September, two of the *Gateway's* resident music geeks discuss the potential candidates



AMANDA  
ASH

Before I begin hollering and plugging for this year's Polaris Prize winner, I was one of the jurors who helped select this year's ten nominees. In no way are my thoughts, criticisms, or extensive bouts of musical knowledge indicative of the decision that will take place on 24 September.

Now, on to the good stuff.

When the shortlist for the 2007 Polaris Prize was publicly announced, I have to say I wasn't shocked or in any way surprised when the ten nominees were named. Of course, I would've liked to see a few more key albums receive a national pat on the back—namely Great Lake Swimmers' *Ongiara*, Wood Pigeon's *Songbook*, and Jim Bryson's *Where The Bungalows Roam*—but the ten discs that were chosen are nonetheless emblematic of what Canuck artists are brewing in their basements.

But with every prize there must come a winner. As hard as it will be to decide who should be awarded Polaris' \$20 000 prize, there are a few musicians who have crafted some catchy, finely tuned albums worthy of recognition and respect in addition to \$20 grand. That said, I can tell you who *shouldn't* find their names scrawled upon an oversized check: Feist, Chad Van Gaalen and—holy Jesus—Arcade Fire.

Both Feist and Van Gaalen are talented musicians, don't get me wrong, but they've already proved themselves to the world. Winning this award won't do much else other than crowd their already overflowing resumé. Sure, the Polaris Prize should be given to an album judged

“solely on artistic merit, without regard to genre or record sales,” as its credo states, but it's also a prize that should honor up-and-coming artists that haven't already found themselves swimming in oodles of recognition. This same argument applies to the Arcade Fire. The only reason I feel they were nominated is because they're one of Canada's best musical acts, not because their disc, *Neon Bible*, was any good. Imagine the headlines if they hadn't been nominated. Scandalous.

The Dears and Patrick Watson don't really stand out to me as a couple of rare gems just waiting to be placed on a golden throne, either. Are they worthy of their nominations? Most definitely. Are they going to win the Polaris Prize? Probably not.

The same goes for Miracle Fortress and Junior Boys. They're both a couple of little voices that, with a bit more punch and pride, would've probably made for some tough competition.

Now, what about the Joel Plaskett Emergency and Julie Doiron? Frankly, if either of these artists leave the gala on 24 September with \$20 000 extra in their pockets, I'll be happy. Plaskett's concept album, *Ashtray Rock*, is as flawless as the joints kids are rolling to his songs, and Doiron's *Woke Myself Up* is as beautiful as her satiny, pillowy voice.

But then there are The Besnard Lakes.

*The Besnard Lakes Are The Dark Horse* is an album title that sums it all up for those who have never heard of the band, but for those who have been keeping tabs on the Montreal artists over the last little while, you'll know that they're no underdogs. I mean, who can possibly incorporate Brian Wilson-esque melodies with atmospheric jazz and mystic rock & roll and still live to tell the tale? By far, The Besnard Lakes are my number one choice for the Polaris Prize. Out of all of the great music that came out of Canada this year, it'd be nice to see the Prize go to a band that really has something up their sleeves—even if it's a blow-up beach ball.



PAUL  
BLINOV

You raise some valid arguments, Amanda: I agree completely about Feist, Watson, and the Dears, although I'd place Julie Doiron in that category as well. Before I get to my bets, however, a word about the Arcade Fire.

It seems like I'm one of the few people hailing *Neon Bible* these days, with an outspoken group of playing the vicious wolf to the Montreal-based band's tender new release—hell, you yourself chose the words “one of Canada's best musical acts” when describing them.

True, the album doesn't reach the same cathartic heights that *Funeral* did, but that's because they're two very different albums. *Funeral* looks inward with naïvety, like a child learning to cope with loss for the very first time; on *Neon Bible*, that kid has grown up all crooked—bitter, but tougher because of it. It moved the Arcade Fire into new, darker territory without sounding like they were out of ideas.

Having gotten that off of my chest, I don't think *Neon Bible* will take the prize for the same reason that Feist won't—they're plenty big already. But the album deserves to be on this list for its own merit, not because of the band's well-developed reputation and influence.

A quick skim of the other nominees reveals some perks and flaws. The Junior Boys are a neat hybrid of dance and cold pop, but a little too left-field to secure juror votes; The Dears' *Gang of Losers*, while good, is probably the weakest release in their catalogue.

So, who does deserve the \$20 000 prize? Last year, Final Fantasy's *He Poos Clouds* stole the inaugural award with its brooding violin loops, roomy compositions, and artistic vision—upon a single listen, you know the guy had huge blocks of talent and the focused vision to mold it perfectly. *He Poos Clouds* was a pretty obvious pick, striking a balance between the bigger nominees like Metric and smaller hopefuls like Cadence Weapon.

The Besnard Lakes seem to have the same sort of thing going on—granted, they aren't restricted to the same minimal instruments that Final Fantasy was, but *Besnard Lakes Are the Dark Horse* is a kindred-spirit album, complete with prog-rock space-outs and smoggy, distorted riffs.

The problem is that it seems too similar to *He Poos Clouds* to win—the Polaris Prize is supposed to be cover any and all genres, and having winners in the first two years that both make a blacker brand of music would establish a certain sound that jurors are looking for, draining the credibility of Polaris, and destroying the whole point of having such an award in the first place.

So, after all that, my pick for the big win is Joel Plaskett. *Ashtray Rock* is unapologetically teen-aged—the glorious soundtrack to the massive nights of sneaking dad's six pack to your friend's house, and waking up with a hazy head that lacks memories ... then doing the same thing the next night. The inebriated, stumbling riff that opens the title track revels in its own smug glory, setting the stage for the extraordinary disc that follows. I like a band that's unafraid to give me some good pop chops; Joel's just doling them out, track after track. Balancing hooks with creative writing, *Ashtray Rock* is the perfect follow-up win to *He Poos Clouds*' frigid landscape, and fully deserving of a cool \$20 000.

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# Cannibals gorge on controversy

## musicpreview

### Cannibal Corpse

With Red Chord, Goatwhore and Absense  
Saturday, 22 September at 6pm  
Dinwoodie Lounge

PAUL BLINOV  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Mothers of Edmonton, hide your children. Then, start petitioning the government to shut down the Dinwoodie Lounge, as Cannibal Corpse are tearing into town as part of Metal Blade Records' 25th anniversary tour. Your sons and daughters will surely be corrupted by the death-metal band's flaming pitchfork messages—after all, who but the devil himself would pen “Maggot-Smashed Face”?

That's the kind of warm welcome Cannibal Corpse is used to, and, after 19 years, they've gotten fairly comfortable with that. Given their penchant for graphically violent album covers and horror-movie lyrics, they've probably caused more than their fair share of parent-teacher meetings. But that hasn't slowed them down—in fact, the Buffalo-based act is basking in more popularity than ever.

“Well, there's no such thing as bad press,” guitarist Pat O'Brien quips. “We're not really trying to send out any kind of message; we just put lyrics to the theme of the music. Basically, we write dark, heavy music, and we put horror, gore-type lyrics because that's the kind of lyrics that best fits the music.”

O'Brien's a relatively new addition to the band, having joined up in 1997 to play alongside drummer Paul Mazurkiewicz, bassist Alex Webster, guitarist Rob Barrett, and screamer



George “Corpsegrinder” Fisher. Together, the band has managed to leap countless piles of controversy and keep on putting out punishing albums. They've even won a few battles: just recently, a ban on the live performance of their first three albums in Germany was lifted.

“Some kid came to school wearing a Cannibal Corpse T-shirt, and she found it offensive, and then ... I don't know the whole story, but we had to sign papers saying we wouldn't play songs from our first three albums,” O'Brien explains. “It was really a stupid ban.”

German fans were surely pleased at the ruling, although working with a reduced song-base wouldn't have slowed the band down. They've played everywhere from South America to Russia and have legions of devoted fans the world over to defend the merit of Cannibal Corpse's violent sound.

As to complaints that death-metal is a genre in which all bands sound alike, O'Brien is quick to point out the acute ear training that fans of

the genre have for picking out subtle differences in bands.

“Don't the blues [all] sound the same? Nobody rags on the blues,” he says, defending his chosen genre. “I mean, it is a certain kind of music, [but] if you're really into death-metal, you know it does not [all] sound the same.”

“I mean, we try to do different things on each album: push ourselves harder, become better songwriters and better players. [Bands] get boring for us if they play the same thing, and we know what we play. Now, what it sounds like to somebody who listens to it through their stereo, that's up to them to decide.”

Yet for all the devoted fans who spite parental approval to see their shows, O'Brien still seems surprised that Cannibal Corpse hasn't rotted away yet.

“I think Cannibal Corpse was one of those bands that was supposed to go away after the second album,” he admits. “You can never tell what's going to happen.”



## albumreview

### Bat for Lashes

*Fur and Gold*  
EMI Records

LIZ DURDEN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Right from the opening harpsichord sequence of “Horse and I,” Bat for Lashes' debut album *Fur and Gold* plunges listeners into a mysterious and vivid dreamland. With lines like “You're the chosen one,” you can't help but feel like you're being individually invited into the psyche of Natasha Khan, the architect behind the all-female band.

*Fur and Gold* features the story-

telling lyrics of Khan accompanied by richly layered instruments. The unique combination of harpsichord, viola, guitar, percussion, autoharp, and piano creates a gothic and luxurious sound, fitting in snugly with the album title.

Most songs on the album follow a similar pattern: emphatic beats or a musical rift leads in to the introduction of vocals. Khan's clear voice has a subtle

touch of sadness reminiscent of Björk. Ranging from a whisper to a bellow, Khan—along with the varied instruments—creates suprising diversity in her songs.

Strong dramatic tracks on the album include “Horse and I,” “Prescilla,” “Sarah,” and “What's a Girl to Do?” and while not objectionable, slower songs like “Seal Jubilee” are a bit harder to get into, lacking melodic variation. The melancholy “Sad Eyes,” on the other hand, gives a diversion from the fantasy tone of the rest of the album.

This album is a strong beginning for the band, which demonstrates Khan's impressive, level songwriting from start to finish. Grab some costume jewelry, lie back, and let *Fur and Gold* waltz through your consciousness.



## albumreview

### Martin Kerr

*I Know You're Out There*  
Independent

BRYAN SAUNDERS  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

If Jack Johnson was one day bitten by a radioactive Cat Stevens, the result would be a super-human being named Martin Kerr. Transplanted to Edmonton by marriage, this British singer-songwriter's music immediately evokes flashbacks to the days of peace, love, and protest songs, but in an idyllic kind of way.

Kerr's soothing voice lightly dancing over every note, *I Know You're*

*Out There* draws in listeners with its hopeful, remarkable lyrics and beautifully written instrumentals. A few tracks after the reflective lullaby “Chicken's Feet” comes “My Love's Been More than Two Hours Long,” a deliciously upbeat song that might make a Gaelic-music lover out of anyone within earshot.

As the tracks fly by, *I Know You're Out There* keeps on getting better and

better. midway through the album is “You Two Can,” by far the best and catchiest song of the bunch—it's also the most hippie-esque, with lyrics like “If we're not famous / Think that no one will blame us / Letting injustice go on as it does / But the starving don't care / About the price of your haircut / Any true kindness will do.” Even those who don't buy into the socialist mindset will find themselves singing along to the chorus of “Bono can't change the world / Anymore than you two can.”

The end of the album, like the end of the anti-war movement, is bitter-sweet: the closing track, “In Hindsight,” is yet another gem, but as the album comes to a close, so does the beautiful world that Kerr has created—until the play button is quickly hit again, of course.

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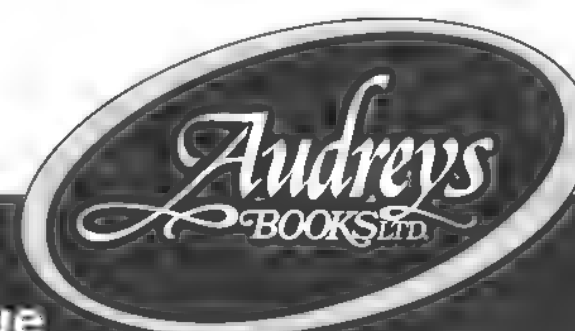
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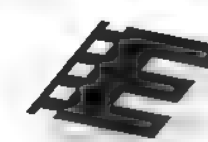
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# Soccer Bears take on T-Birds, Vikes at home

ROBIN COLLUM  
Sports Editor

For Bears soccer, rehearsal time is over. The young team—half the roster is made up of first- and second-year athletes—have been practicing together for weeks and have played four conference games, reaching that point in the schedule where they should be able to get a feeling of how the rest of the season will go. They'll be testing themselves against two traditional soccer powers, UBC and Victoria, this weekend.

Alberta (2-2-0) have lost to both University College of the Fraser Valley and Trinity Western on their first away trip, but redeemed themselves against Lethbridge and Calgary on the weekend. The Bears have been focusing so far on trying to work together as a team. Meeting UBC (1-2-1) and Victoria (3-2-0) will be a test of their progress.

"We'll have to work hard. We've introduced twelve new players to the squad, and in the last few games here, we've had as many as five first-year players starting," head coach Len Vickery explained. "It's going to take a little bit of time, but the more we practice together and the more familiar we become with one another—and not least, understand the demands of the Canada West schedule and the opponents—the better off we're going to be."

Opposition in the Canada West conference can be incredibly tough, especially from BC teams like UBC and UVic. Vickery sees the challenge ahead, and views it as a good chance to evaluate his team's progress.

"They're going to be two extremely tough games, and that's what we need to prepare ourselves for," he said. "UBC and Victoria have a history of competing at the highest level in CIS and Canada West."

"I fully expect that they're going to be near or



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

**EYES ON THE PRIZE** The soccer Bears are young, but they're determined, and what they have their eyes on next is a pair of wins at home this weekend.

close to the top at the end of the Canada West season. They're going to be a good test our young team this weekend."

Mike Mosher, head coach of the UBC Thunderbirds, isn't taking anything for granted as his team prepares to face Alberta on Saturday.

"I know they have made some changes from last year—they lost some pretty quality players," he said. "But whenever we play the U of A, it's

always a competitive game, and it's often quite an enjoyable game because there's a bit more flow when our teams get together."

Though he sees the strength of the opposition, Vickery isn't any more concerned than he would be facing the other teams in the conference.

"It will be another two tough games, but that's the way it's going to be all seven weekends where we're required to play the two games."

On Alberta's side is the fact that both UVic and UBC have had slow starts to their seasons: the T-Birds have lost to Lethbridge and TWU, the Vikes to Trinity Western and Fraser Valley.

"It's been a bit of a disappointing start," Mosher admitted. "We've had a few key injuries, but hopefully we'll have a few of those guys back over the weekend."

Both games are at Foote Field at 2:15 pm.



KATE WADE

**WHAT'S WITH THE SKIRTS?** A two-year veteran of the national team, Pandas midfielder Erin Mason (in white) is a key member of Alberta's side.

## Mason building Pandas field hockey

ROBIN COLLUM  
Sports Editor

When some students take a semester off to figure out their lives, it often involves backpacking across Asia, living in their parents' basement, or moving to Jasper to smoke a lot of pot. For Erin Mason, taking a break from school meant moving to Vancouver to train full-time with the women's national field hockey team.

Like other adventurers, the Pandas midfielder returned with a much clearer view of her priorities. A fourth-year mechanical engineering student, she used her time in Vancouver—from January to August—to think about what she wanted from her academic and athletic careers.

Mason had competed with the national team before, travelling with Team Canada to Wales, Scotland, and France in the summer of 2006.

"That was neat because I was brand new, fresh—one of the youngest players on the team—and I didn't know what to expect," Mason says. "I really enjoyed it. I was learning so much, so fast and had all these amazing players to play with and learn from."

Last Christmas, she went back to the national training centre on the coast after a Team Canada trip to South Africa, but this time didn't enjoy the experience as much. While she found the training rewarding and improved her game, she also realized that it wasn't what she wanted for her life.

"Coming back to centralized training after that, I sort of found myself not really sure if that was what I wanted to do," she says. "I love field hockey, but I wasn't sure if I wanted to sacrifice not being in school, giving up my whole life, and moving provinces to a city where I don't know anybody, just to play field hockey. I decided around May that I wasn't really enjoying it enough to continue to live in Vancouver, and that I wanted to come back to school and play here."

Her time training in Vancouver wasn't wasted; from a field hockey perspective, she has benefitted greatly. Even what may have been a negative at the time is now a positive since she returned to the Pandas roster.

"I think my biggest issue with the national team was my confidence level," Mason says. "The coach wasn't the best at supporting it, and that's sort of what didn't work out for me. Anyways, coming back here, it's nice because I do have the confidence, and I can try things now and feel comfortable doing them."

The Pandas are thrilled to have her back on their roster. Mason is happy to share any new expertise she picked up at the national training centre with her university teammates.

"It's good that I've come back here. I hope that I can help the rest of the team out with things that I've learned."

Pandas head coach Carla Duncan relishes having Mason on her squad for another year. Duncan has coached Mason for four years, and she says that Mason's time with Team Canada has

had a noticeable effect on her, and that the entire team has really profited.

"I think just generally she's more confident as a player," Duncan says. "She definitely now has the respect of her teammates, of course, but also of the league. We already know that other teams are going to be designing a game plan to counteract her, and that's a big step for her."

"From a coaching perspective, it's awesome. We have three or four different ways we'll use her against opponents, and it forces them to respect what we're doing. All of a sudden, they're focusing on us and what we're doing rather than what they need to be doing."

Mason knows that she has an important role as a leader of the team, and she's happy to do her best to fill it.

"I just want to lead by example, to show the younger players that if we want to do well, we have to work hard. We can't just expect it to come, so at every practice, I always try and push everybody that little extra bit. I'm not the one consoling people; I'm more the one trying to push people."

Duncan agrees with Mason's self-assessment.

"She's definitely a leader, but more a leader by example than a vocal leader," Duncan explains. "Field hockey is very important to her, and she puts a lot of time and effort into it, but she's also a very good student, and she balances that with her social life as well. Erin is an extremely well-rounded person."





FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

**GO FOR THE FIVE-HOLE** These women's hockey teams don't know how good they have it with their school colours.

# Rams stung by hockey bug

Ryerson University wants to catch up to the rest of CIS by getting a women's hockey team, but there are hoops—like playing for two years as the “Stingers”

JORDAN HAY  
*The Eyeopener*

TORONTO (CUP)—The women's hockey program has returned to Ryerson after a 59-year hiatus. But don't call them the Rams—at least not yet.

Before being welcomed to CIS, the team must compete under probationary status in a different league for a minimum of two years.

In addition, players cannot compete under the name “Ryerson” or “Rams,” at the risk of losing eligibility once the probation period has ended.

“We don't want to lose a lot of our players, so we've entered them as the Stingers,” said acting Ryerson athletic director Jean Kennedy, a former University of Toronto hockey player.

Once assembled, the Stingers, who will play at York University, will be competing in the Tier 4 division of the Golden Blades Women's Hockey League. The veteran organization consists of four tiers, Tier 1 the most advanced.

“We decided that we should enter low and look good rather than enter high,” Kennedy said.

The decision to establish a women's hockey program was initiated by fourth-year fashion communications

student Stephanie Poulin. It was furthered by a recent CIS call for participating universities to have parity in terms of male and female teams by 2010.

**“I think it's time we step up our game if we want to have a competitive athletics department, and this is a step in the right direction.”**

STEPHANIE POULIN  
STINGERS FOUNDER

“It's something that needs to happen here. York has a women's team, and U of T has a women's team. I think it's time we step up our game if we want to have a competitive athletics department, and this is a step in the right direction,” Poulin said.

After campaigning for two years and seeing no prospect of a program, Poulin organized an unofficial team that practiced weekly and secured a tournament win last year.

“After that tournament, I couldn't keep shut,” Poulin said.

She personally called Ryerson

President Sheldon Levy to inform him of the rebel squad's victory. Levy saw it as a good sign and rewarded Poulin's initiative by giving her the green light to form her team.

This year the team will receive \$16 500 in financial assistance from the University to cover basic needs.

“It's certainly not enough,” said Kennedy, who is well aware they will need to drum up significant support through sponsorship, Ryerson's adopt-an-athlete program, and fundraising.

To further cut costs, Poulin and her father, temporary head coach Harvey Poulin, have volunteered to work without pay.

It may seem like a long road for the eventual Rams, but the team knows how this game is played.

“There's a very specific structure and a very specific process they have to go through to see if there's even sufficient interest to pursue the development of a varsity team,” said team administrator Liz Devine, a hockey player herself.

Regardless of the strict regulations, the Stingers' bottom line is having fun.

“There's no point in playing sports if you don't have fun,” Poulin said. “I want the girls to enjoy having fun and getting to be part of this movement at Ryerson.”

## SPORTS SHORTS

by Robin Collum

### Pandas not so cuddly this weekend

The Pandas soccer team (1-3-0) hope not to be gracious hosts this weekend, as the University College of the Fraser Valley Cascades (2-1-1) and Trinity Western University Spartans (2-2-0) will be at Foote Field to take them on.

The young Alberta team has struggled to find consistency so far this season, but fans hope that they'll be able to convert home field advantage into a pair of wins against their coastal rivals. Games are at 12pm on Saturday (Trinity Western) and Sunday (UCFV).

### Bears look to turn their luck around

The football Bears are at home this weekend as well, and they hope to be able to finally get something to put in the win column. So far, Alberta is 0-3, and the upcoming game against Simon Fraser University is widely considered a must-win situation. They do seem to be improving, though: last game against UBC was the first one this season in which they scored at all in the first quarter.

Last year, Alberta missed the conference playoffs for the first time in three years, and with only five games left in the schedule, it could be a close call as to whether or not they can squeeze into the post-season this year.

The Clan (0-3) aren't doing any better the Bears, so fans who attend the game at 2pm Saturday afternoon at Foote Field should be able to see a tight match.

### Pre-season ice time for the U of A

If you're counting the seconds until the NHL and CIS seasons start, and the Oilers Rookie game wasn't enough to quench your thirst for pre-season hockey, you can get your fix this weekend, as both the Pandas and Bears will be playing exhibition games.

The Pandas face off against the women's team from Red Deer College at Clare Drake on Saturday at 2pm. The Pandas lost many of their multiple-national championship-winning players at the end of last season, but they're still a strong team, and it should be a fun game to watch.

Though the Bears will be facing more familiar competition—Saskatchewan and Manitoba—their games this weekend will be in Saskatoon, so unless you're really into road trips, stick with the Pandas.

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# CFL needs to cut all the Yankee riff-raff

There's a big difference between the American and Canadian leagues, and stars from down south don't always work out up here



BEN  
CARTER

Sports  
Commentary

While CFL fans love cheering for Canadian players such as Adam Braidwood, JR Larose, or Bob Cameron, there's no question that American-born players dominate CFL rosters. While league requirements ensure that there will always be a large percentage of Canadians in the league, teams pack their skill positions with American players, some of whom are here by choice, others who are here because they're without any other options.

But as an emphasis on personal character becomes more prevalent in professional sports, the CFL needs to decide if taking on troubled play-

ers—and the accompanying bad publicity—is worth it. In upcoming seasons for the CFL, as much as any other issue, developing and implementing a long-term strategy of finding players with the right skills and the right character for their teams and their league should become a priority.

**Still, CFL clubs sign several lower-profile ex-NFLers per season who leave the league under negative circumstances.**

While CFL players have generally avoided the type of sensationalist scandals that seem to dominate the American sports media (a CFL game-check doesn't quite look the same raining down around a stripper as

an NFL cheque does), the league isn't unfamiliar with players from troubled backgrounds.

Numerous American players have made the trek north to try and shed a bad reputation and to restart a football career that may be floundering in the United States. The most famous of these players is Ricky Williams, who joined the Toronto Argonauts for the 2006 season while suspended from the NFL for repeated drug violations. During his time in Canada, Williams was a model citizen, though his season was marred by injuries. However, the situation simply did not look good for the league: drug cheat escapes to Canada. The CFL has since changed their rules and disallowed players under suspension from the NFL, perhaps learning the hard way that even the most talented of players aren't worth the trouble.

Still, CFL clubs sign several lower profile ex-NFLers per season who leave the league under negative circumstances. These signings usually

follow a particular pattern: the player is signed, speculation is rampant as to what extent they will dominate the league, training camp begins, negativity starts to engulf the player and the team, expectations are lowered, an injury occurs, and the player quits or is cut from the team, often before Labour Day. It's embarrassing for the league, frustrating for its fans, and rarely successful for the teams involved.

There's no denying that the level of skill and athleticism among NFL players is generally superior to that of those in the CFL. But as a result of the differences between the Canadian and American leagues and the nature of football itself, strict measurables aren't an accurate indicator of quality football. More than size or a big arm, CFL quarterbacks need to be all over the field, make the big plays when they are needed, and lead a team through difficult circumstances.

The same is true on the defensive side of the ball, where the size/speed

combo so desired by NFL coaches becomes secondary to the ability to keep track of the fireworks in front of them. Contemporary professional football players are so skilled that there isn't a lot separating the average NFL and CFL player, and the CFL merely requires different skill set than its US counterpart. Certain players have it, and others don't.

For the Canadian league, the money and fame available in the NFL means that competing for top US college players is not an option. But as CFL revenues and the overall health of the league continue to grow as they have been over the past five years, the league has an opportunity to target skilled players that are looking for the opportunity to build their career in football. Player continuity has never been a strong point for the CFL, and a new strategy and emphasis on player personnel could ensure that the league can rely on its own stars playing football in Canada for the long term.

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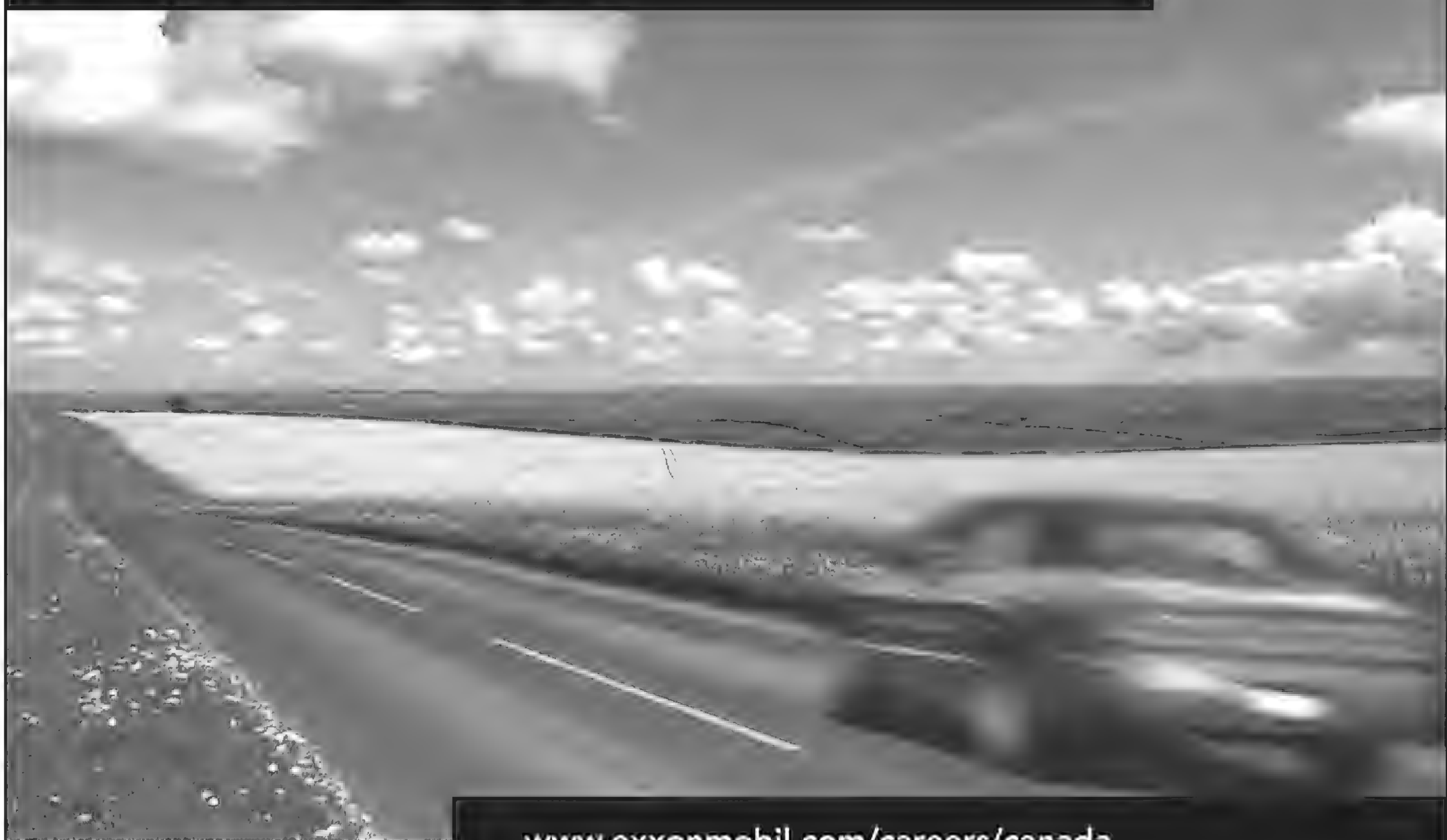


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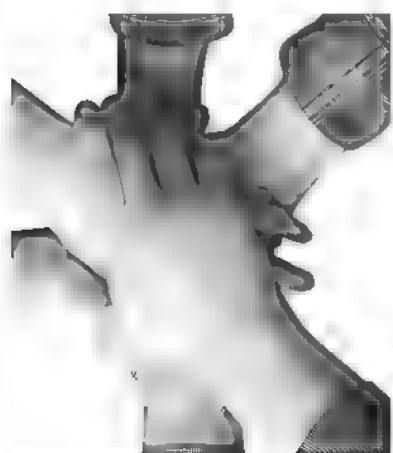
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# Athletes say, do, drink, buy, pee, and smoke the darndest things

When the tabloids are full of armed robberies, racial slurs, and white-collar crime, it's fun to recall the bad things athletes do that hurt only themselves



SPORTS  
STAFF

Group  
Commentary

There's nothing funny about violent crime, but the rest of it? Come on, that shit can get pretty funny, especially if the perpetrators are household-name athletes. Maybe it's the spotlight, maybe it's the testosterone, or maybe it's all the electrolyte-enriched sports drinks they've been guzzling, but it seems that when athletes commit non-violent crimes, they do so in spectacularly hilarious ways. What follows are our picks for most ridiculous appearances that athletes have made on the police blotter.

## Marc Affeld

The personal life of current Memphis Grizzlies point guard Damon Stoudamire is basically one continuous stoner comedy. In fact, two examples of Stoudamire's marijuana-laden shenanigans could have been pulled straight from a couple of Hollywood classics.

Remember the opening scene of the film *Super Troopers*, where the police pull over three stoners because of a noticeable cloud of smoke being emitted from the vehicle? Well, replace those three stoners with Stoudamire, a driver buddy, and then-fellow co-captain of the Portland Trail Blazers Rasheed Wallace, and you have an incident that occurred in November of 2002.

Stoudamire and Wallace were busted in the middle of the night for living up to their team's name by blazing and driving back to Portland from a game in Seattle. All of this was done while speeding in a not-so-inconspicuous yellow Hummer. Hilarity undoubtedly ensued.

Then in July of 2003, Stoudamire took a tip from the bass player in *This is Spinal Tap* by trying to smuggle something past airport security on his person. Only instead of hiding a cucumber wrapped in aluminum foil in his pants, Stoudamire tried to sneak past the metal detector with one and a half ounces of pot wrapped in aluminum foil. Yes, Stoudamire's strategy for tricking security was to wrap the marijuana in foil, which the machines were designed to detect.

And they say stuff like that only happens in the movies.

## Nick Frost

Although he may have been overshadowed in the last few years by the grotesquely large number of other athlete-criminals around, former MLB player Darryl Strawberry trumps them all. He spent most of the '80s, '90s, and early 21st century either in a prison cell in Florida, in rehab, or staring down the envelope of a subpoena for child support.

It would take way too long to try and explain each individual wrongdoing that Mr Strawberry has committed since 1987, but, in case you were wondering, I'll summarize: he's been accused of breaking his first ex-wife's nose, arrested for slapping

around his second ex-wife (while she was pregnant, no less), failed to make child support payments, been arrested for cocaine and painkiller possession on numerous occasions, been thrown out of rehab for having sex with an inmate, solicited sex from an undercover cop, and faked a police report that his vehicle had been stolen and that he was being kidnapped, and "pistol-whipped," in order to get the police to arrest his "kidnapper."

I don't think there really is much more you can say about this guy—his track record pretty well speaks for itself. And yet, somehow, he managed to remain one of the more popular stars in baseball throughout most of his career, garnering eight straight starts in the MLB All-Star Game, which is voted on by the fans, not to mention a wealth of merchandise bearing his name.

He even guest-starred in one of the greatest *Simpsons* episodes of all-time, displaying his ten-foot vertical leap, his knack for hitting nine homers off of the Shelbyville Power Plant softball team, and his ability to take nerve tonic without suffering the ill-effects of gigantism. Although, now that I think about it, it makes sense why Mr Burns pinch-hit Homer for Darryl: he probably tried to solicit sex from Smithers.

## Ben Carter

In Edmonton, when we see a pair of drunk, unruly, hockey-playing brothers acting like idiots on the side of the road, we call it Saturday night outside the Oil City Roadhouse. When it happens in the United States in the year 2007, however, that shit is a big deal.

Earlier this summer, in a hotel in rural Minnesota, Eric Staal of the Carolina Hurricanes and his younger brother Jordan, of the Pittsburgh Penguins, were arrested at the elder Staal's bachelor party. They were charged with a count each of disorderly conduct, and Jordan was charged with underage drinking.

Apparently, the Staals heeded the original police warning that the bachelor party had been getting out of hand (but not before being threatened with deportation), and went to bed for the night. But the party continued without them, and later that night they were woken up and kicked out of the hotel. The group then "gathered on Highway 61 and began harassing passing motorists" according to the police report, where they were then arrested. A pair of \$500 fines later, and the matter seemed to be resolved.

The most amusing detail of this case was the ensuing media coverage in Canada: in a summer in which athletes were arrested regularly for crimes ranging from the mundane to the truly horrific, many reacted as if this was the NHL's equivalent of Michael Vick running a dogfighting ring. Their mugshots even appeared on the cover of the *Toronto Sun*.

If members of the Canadian media are surprised that hockey isn't taken seriously in the United States, perhaps they should consider the ramifications of turning a non-story featuring two of the game's young stars into a massive affair such as this one. Because really, if you can't get wrecked and yell at passing cars at your bachelor party, when can you do it?

## Paul Owen

He may not have committed a crime in the strictest sense, but Onterio Smith belongs in any discussion of professional athletes who are criminals. Suspended from the NFL for two years following his third violation of the league's Substance Abuse Policy in 2005, Smith isn't memorable so much for being a bit of a dooper as for the way in which he was caught.

In May of 2005, while travelling through the Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport, Smith was detained passing through security because his carry-on contained some suspicious items: the first being a jar of his dried urine, the second being a device known as the "Original Whizzinator."

The Whizzinator comes with a pure urine sample, a couple of syringes, a latex penis, and a handy instruction manual explaining how to make it look like you're peeing when you're not. Apparently the device does a poor job, as Smith was caught three times breaking the NFL's anti-drug policies. If you're going to cheat, you should at least do it so you don't get caught.

Of course, Smith's detainment became a punchline in the American media, as well as spawning infinite fantasy football teams named the Whizzinators. With Smith gone from the NFL and unsuccessful in his stint with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, the former Oregon star's legacy will remain as the dude who got caught with the fake piss in the airport.

## Robin Collum

If there's one thing funnier than fake penises (or is that peni?), bachelor-party shenanigans, and hot-boxing a moving SUV, it's hypocrisy exposed.

In 1999, Eugene Robinson was a free safety for the Atlanta Falcons who made it all the way to the Super Bowl. He was also widely respected as a person and considered an excellent role model—so much so, that on the morning before the Super Bowl, he was awarded the Bart Starr award by the Christian group Athletes in Action. The award is given to the athlete that year who is seen to best exemplify moral leadership, strong character, and other good Christian virtues.

You can imagine, then, how non-plussed Robinson's supporters were when his extracurricular activities were revealed—though the Bart Starr award has never earned more publicity before or since. The night before the Super Bowl, Robinson left his hotel and went looking for a \$40 blow job. Unfortunately for him—but luckily for those of us who love pure comedy—he chose entirely the wrong prostitute to ask—instead of an authentic lady of the night: Robinson solicited an undercover cop.

Sometimes karma's right on time, though, and this was one of those occasions. The next day, Robinson played horribly in the Super Bowl. He missed important tackles, messed up defensive coverage, and generally made an ass of himself on the field. Many people blamed him—and his after-hours escapades—for the Falcons' 34–19 loss to the Denver Broncos, and he was lodged in the public consciousness not for his Super Bowl ring, but for oral sex gone wrong.

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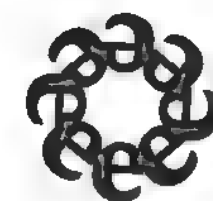
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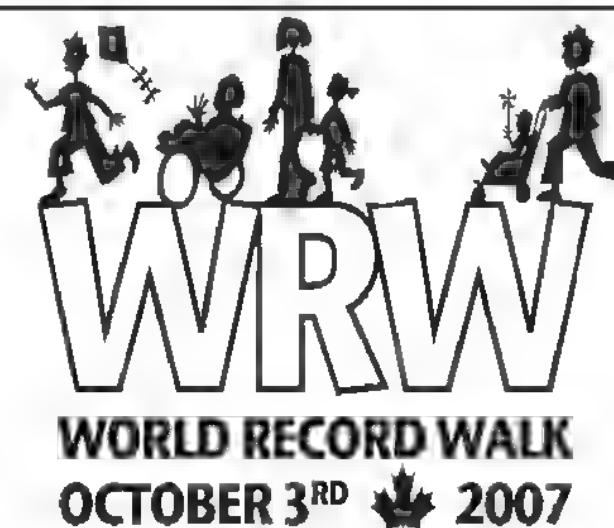
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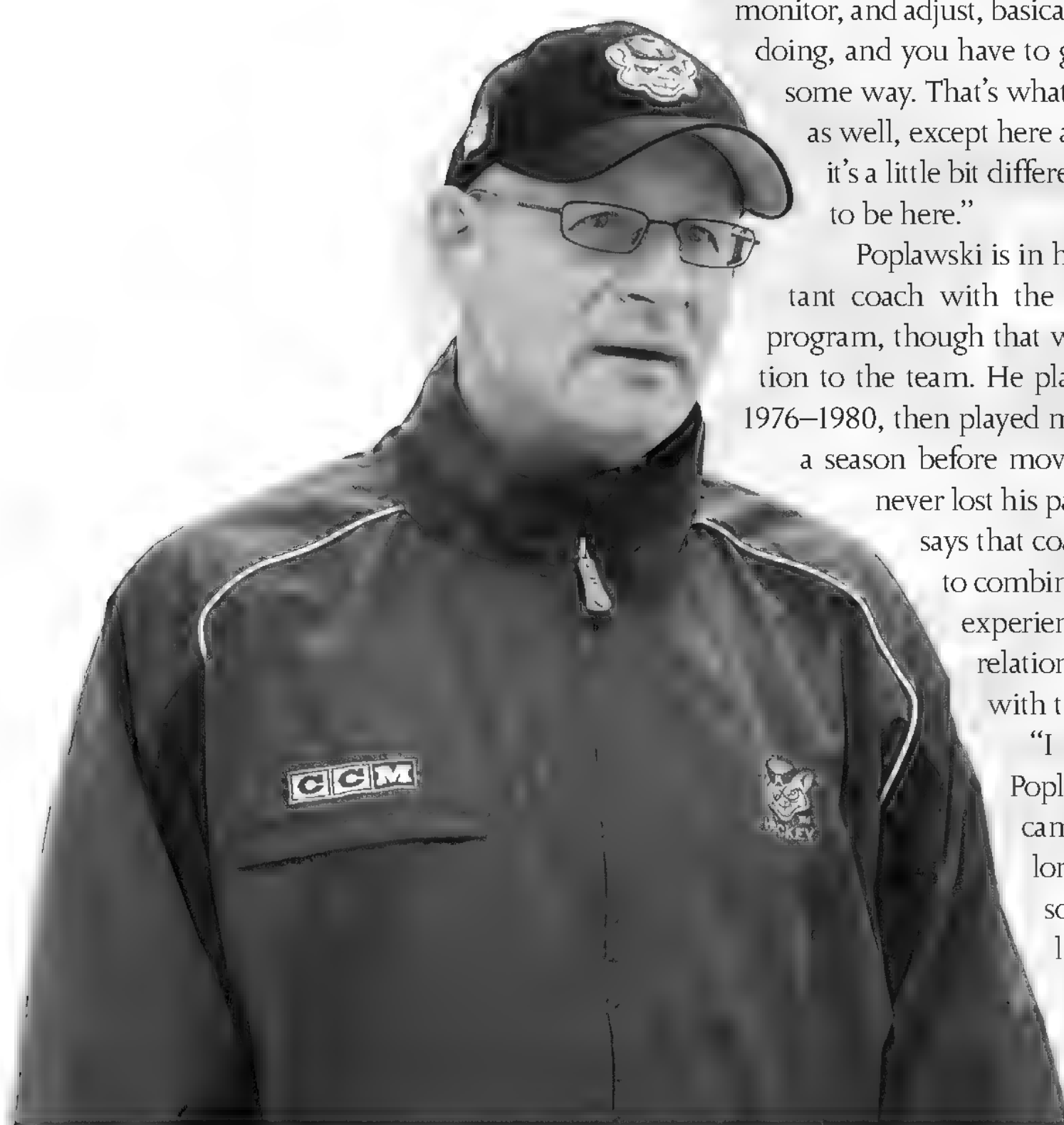


# TEAM PLAYERS

## PART 2 OF 2

On Tuesday, Gateway sports editor Robin Collum profiled two of the dozens of assistant coaches whose second-in-command roles are an integral element of varsity sports. In the second half of this installment, we go behind the bench again with two more of the Bears' and Pandas' best.

WRITTEN BY ROBIN COLLUM  
PHOTOS BY MIKE OTTO



**Ted Poplawski**  
Bears Hockey

**L**ike most of the other assistant coaches on campus, Ted Poplawski has a day job—working with varsity athletes is something he does on his own time. That said, he finds a lot of parallels between what he does with the Golden Bears hockey team and his nine-to-five teaching social studies at Archbishop O'Leary High School.

"I think it's a natural fit; they go hand in hand," he explains. "You have to be able to observe, monitor, and adjust, basically. You see what they're doing, and you have to get your point across in some way. That's what I do at the high school as well, except here at the university, I think it's a little bit different in that the kids want to be here."

Poplawski is in his 14th year as an assistant coach with the U of A men's hockey program, though that wasn't his first introduction to the team. He played for the team from 1976–1980, then played minor-league hockey for a season before moving on to teaching. He never lost his passion for the sport, and says that coaching is a way for him to combine that with his teaching experience—not to mention the relationships he's developed with the rest of the staff.

"I really enjoy it," Poplawski says. "There's the camaraderie—even on the long bus trips, we have some good times. You like to see the players improve, and it keeps your foot in the game. I loved hockey, and I

still do. And winning helps."

The Bears have done quite a bit of winning over the years that Poplawski's been with the team, including seven Canada West banners and four national championships—1999, 2000, 2005, and 2006. A lot of that success has been because of stellar performances from the team's goalkeepers, which is Poplawski's purview. Right now, he's working with top netminders Aaron Sorochan and Blake Grenier.

**"I really enjoy it. There's the camaraderie—even on the long bus trips, we have some good times. You like to see the players improve, and it keeps your foot in the game."**

"I just try to watch what they're doing; you're not going to change their styles at this stage, but you look out for little things they're doing wrong, or doing right, and give some advice," he says.

Poplawski gives the players almost all of the credit for Alberta's success in net, however. Even the contribution that he's made he hands over to the various head coaches under whom he's worked and played.

"I think it's a combination of really good players, and I think [head coach Eric Thurston] does a very good job coaching," he explains. "We've learned a lot over the years. We had Rob Daum as head coach for ten years, and I played under

Bill Moores and Clare Drake, and if you don't learn something from those kind of people, you're not paying attention."

But Thurston, for his part, is quick to praise Poplawski.

"He has a great read on goaltenders. He has a very calming and a very technical approach to the game. He relates very well to the kids, and I know he's very well respected, especially among the goalies," Thurston says.

"Ted has a very good sense of humour, and he's also very passionate, which is one of the things he brings to the table. We've become great friends throughout the years."

Not grabbing the glory is fine for Poplawski, as the payoff for him comes directly from working with the players and other coaches.

"We have a good time together," he says. "It's almost like a *Seinfeld* episode in the coaches' room before practice; we have some good laughs."

"That's what makes this fun. If it wasn't fun, I wouldn't do it," he continues. "It's the longest season on campus—it goes from September to hopefully the end of March—so if I didn't love it, I wouldn't be doing it."



**H**e's already coached for 26 years, but something keeps Ron Thompson coming back to the university season after season to coach the Bears' and Pandas' track and field teams—and it's more than just a passion for the sport. What really keeps Thompson engaged is the ability to help shape young athletes not only into better sprinters and jumpers, but into better people.

"I have thought about retiring several times, and in fact I thought I would be retired by now, but there's always reasons you come back," says the 57-year-old, who coaches sprints and horizontal jumps. "You tend to be attracted both by the love of the sport and the people that you work with."

"I like to see people excel, not only athletically, but as a person. There are a number of instances where athletes of mine have excelled in the professions they've chosen, and that's something you really enjoy—seeing how athletes develop into responsible, great citizens."

Thompson wants to be able to share the knowledge and experience he's amassed in a lifetime in the track and field world with the Bears and Pandas he

trains. He started his career as an athlete in Jamaica and continued his involvement with the sport even after he moved to Canada in 1978. He works nights for Canada Post, but still manages to find time to put in at least two hours of coaching most days during the week, and says it's worth it because he enjoys teaching so much.

**"I try to impart as much as possible to the athletes from my knowledge and my life. Every one of us makes mistakes, and those mistakes help us guide people so they don't make the same ones."**

"I try to impart as much as possible to the athletes from my knowledge and my life," he explains. "Every one of us makes mistakes, and those mistakes help us guide people so they don't make the same ones."

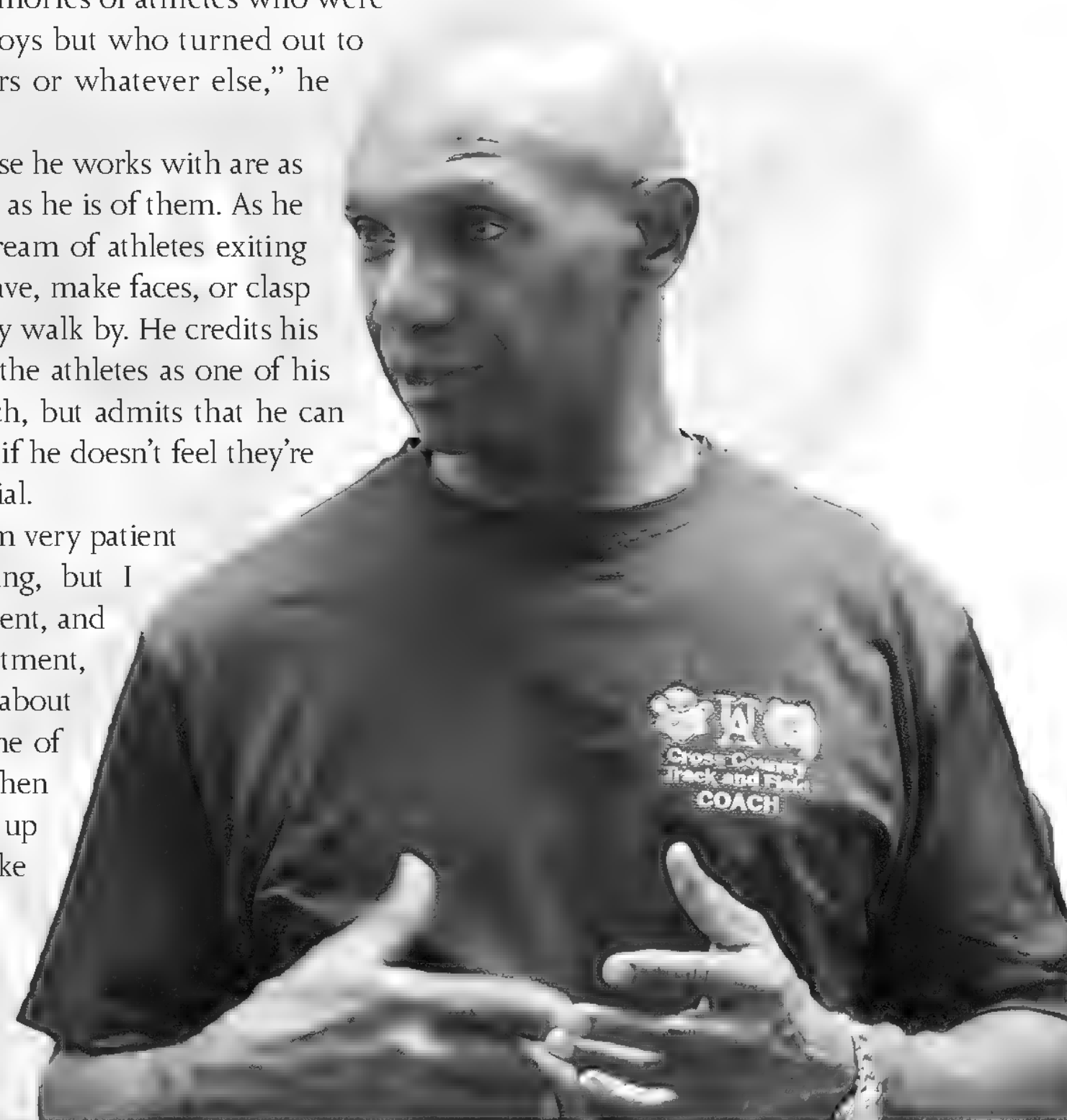
Having coached track at the high school, university, and national levels, Thompson has seen the positive role that sport can play in young athletes' lives. He's worked in the past with national champions and Olympians, including Tyler Christopher,

the former Bear who's now ranked sixth in the world in the 400m sprint. But it's not just those high-profile cases that stick with him.

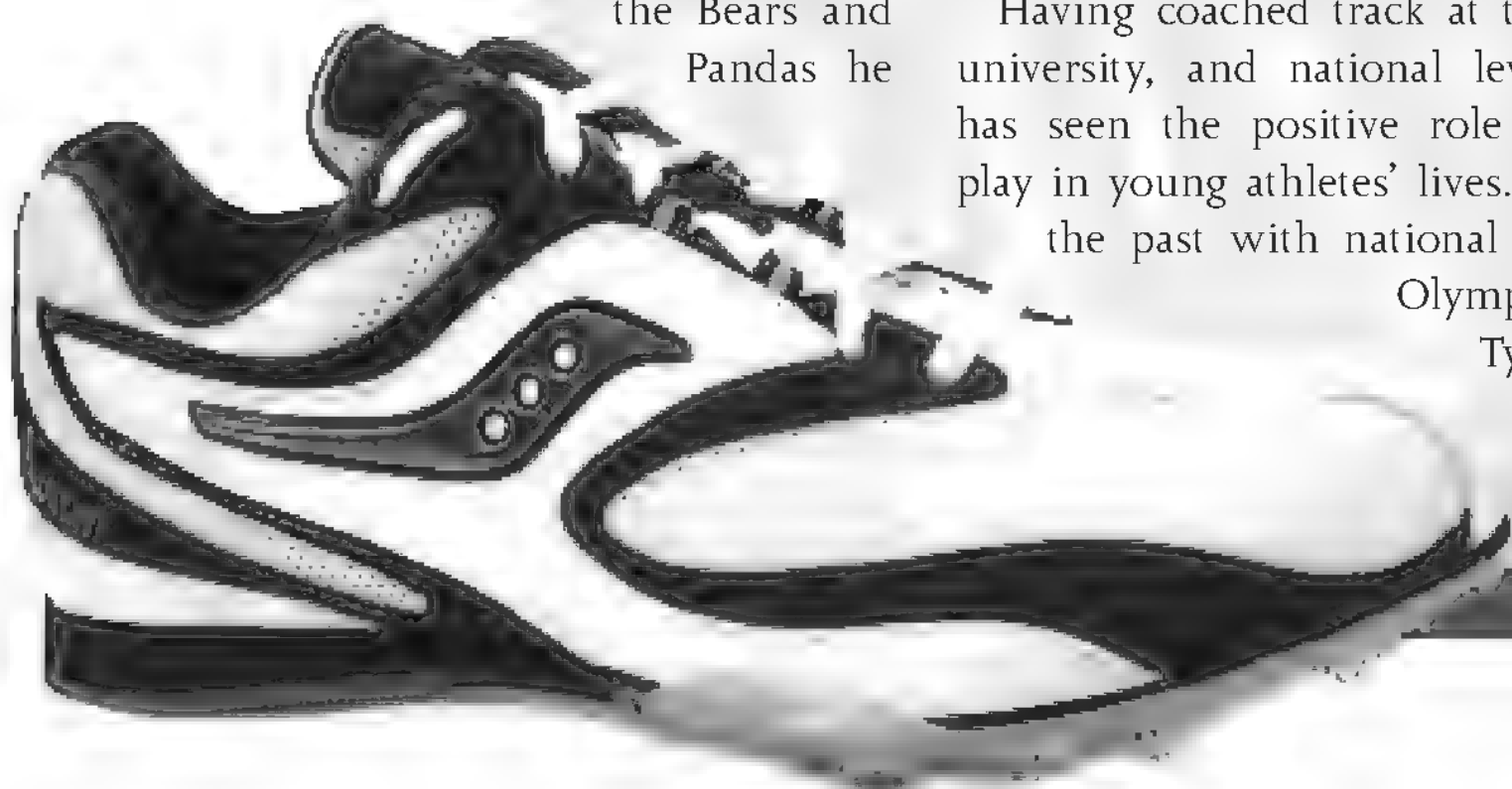
"I have some very, very great memories from coaching high school in Lloydminster, not only of success in terms of coaching, but very touching memories of athletes who were regarded as bad boys but who turned out to be military officers or whatever else," he says.

It's clear that those he works with are as fond of Thompson as he is of them. As he speaks, a steady stream of athletes exiting a team meeting wave, make faces, or clasp his shoulder as they walk by. He credits his ability to relate to the athletes as one of his strengths as a coach, but admits that he can be tough on them if he doesn't feel they're living up to potential.

"I believe that I'm very patient and very easy-going, but I also like commitment, and if I don't see commitment, I'm not very happy about it," he says. "It's one of my pet peeves when people don't show up to practice or take things for granted because they're wasting their time and mine."



**Ron Thompson**  
Bears/Pandas Track and Field





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Volunteer Assistant for Kids Karate Club, ages 6-12. One hour/week Thursdays 4pm, two blocks from U of A Campus. 2+ years experience in a Martial Art. Email [WPKKC\\_Sensei@notmail.com](mailto:WPKKC_Sensei@notmail.com) or phone Gordon at 492-9930 weekdays.

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Volunteer with Safewalk! Safewalk is a Students Union run service that walks people on and around campus at night. We look for friendly, energetic, and fun volunteers. Volunteer shifts are flexible, and can be chosen on a week to week basis according to the time and day that works best for you. Visit [www.su.ualberta.ca/safewalk](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/safewalk) for more information and volunteer applications. The volunteer application deadline is September 26th. Happy September!

PERSONALS

Sing e? Try speed dating with the Edmonton date at the Fluid Lounge on 2 October. Age groups 23-33, 33-43, and 43-53. Register at 457-8535 or [www.edmontondate.ca](http://www.edmontondate.ca)

PARKING

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AVALANCHE OF PANCAKES

"You don't need a reason to talk about tacos," said the bespectacled Deputy. Most of the congregation agreed, save for the tallest.

"I just don't understand why," he complained, his face a mask of irate confusion. The others rolled their eyes. A few went back to their busy work, while the remainder tried to explain the confusion.

"They're delicious, okay? Just don't question." The tallest nodded, but he was on his beginning to understand. The others wondered why the concept was so foreign to him. Certain things they thought should not have to be explained, especially tacos. With its seasoned meats, delicious cheese, crisp lettuce, fresh tomatoes and sour cream. Even bacon bits for some. There were few things more glorious and more worthy to be talked about.

As silence fell over the room as each one let the conversation stew in their minds. No visions of sugar plums here—only tasty Mexican goodness danced in their heads. Their mouths watering, they almost gave thanks for their savory glands, for without them, they wouldn't be able to swallow the spicy treats that would later be indulged in. The silence was only broken when the tallest spoke once more.

"You never know, guys—the earth could be flat."

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super CoolScan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images. Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files. All content is burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler, and Whitney. The Manitopan is the Gateway's sister paper, and we owe her dearly, though not in that way. The Gateway's games of choice are Faceball and Ace Combat demo.

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COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Ryan Heise  
Deputy News Editor

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2 October, where free food will be provided for all attendees.

A shorter meeting of Council took place on Tuesday following last week's three-hour-long Bear Scat debate. Many of the items addressed were held over from the previous meeting and Greek food was again offered, much to the delight of members of the press present in the Scott Lilwall Memorial Press Gallery (SLMPG).

SU URGED TO GO BIG

Council opened with a presentation from University of Alberta physics student Mark McCormack regarding the Make Poverty History campaign.

McCormack's presentation ran through many statistics pertaining to the campaign and how successful it has been to date. The crux of his presentation revolved around trying to get the SU to support Make Poverty History officially through campus advocacy.

McCormack stressed that support for the campaign would help create a good image for both the U of A and the SU, and ultimately make them a leading institution for global advocacy.

“Unless you want to look like idiots, don't sound like idiots.”

AMANDA HENRY  
Council Speaker

— on the public digital recordings of Council

According to McCormack, this support would consist of four primary actions: the SU declaring its support for the campaign at the Stand Up and Speak Out event on 17 October, wearing of the white band by members of the SU, a photo shoot and poster campaign featuring SU officials, and advocacy at the federal level.

Following the presentation, some councillors raised concerns over whether or not the SU should be devoting time and money to advocacy that's so far removed from the student population. However, McCormack explained that only the SU's "voice" was wanted for the campaign. The presentation was generally well received, though the SU didn't promise any official support at this time.

HENRY TO COUNCIL: YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG

Chair Amanda Henry relinquished her position briefly to give a presentation to Council on how councillors should perform their jobs in chambers.

Topics covered included the proper way to address other members of Council through the Chair, how to introduce bills, Robert's Rules of Order—the rules that govern the way many political bodies interact in a formal setting—and several other matters.

Henry explained that, though Students' Council doesn't need to take themselves overly seriously all the time,

there are procedures that need to be followed to ensure that all the councillors' voices can be heard without interruptions.

The presentation was rather light-hearted, but informative for some greener councillors, as well as some candidates who are running in the upcoming by-elections who sat in on the meeting.

QUESTION PERIOD FEATURING EAMONN GAMBLE

Vice-President (Operations & Finance) Eamonn Gamble was asked about how business at Dewey's has been since the format of the café was changed slightly at the beginning of September. Gamble said it seems to be succeeding, that patrons like the fact that they can just walk up and order drinks and food, and that the "coffee shop vibe" is well received.

A follow-up question asked about a marketing campaign for the licensed coffee shop. Gamble said that there were a lot of posters put up during WoW beer gardens, and that a new sign for the entrance had been purchased and will be installed soon.

Another question about the SU's businesses asked whether or not there have been staffing issues at RATT since attendance at the sky-high bar has increased. Gamble explained that it hasn't been a huge issue yet, but RATT's manager has recently resigned, leaving Dewey's manager to pull double-duty

between the bars. He reassured Council that a new RATT manager would be in place soon.

More issues regarding SUB wireless and the SU's lower-level computer lab were directed at Gamble. He said he was frustrated by these issues and that neither SU tech support or AICT could provide solid answers, but that both groups were still looking into it.

Gamble addressed one final question regarding the unreliable wireless internet access in the Fine Arts Building. However, Gamble deferred the question to VP (Academic) Bobby Samuel, as it's not an SU service. Samuel said he was unaware of the problem, but said he would contact Academic Information and Communication Technologies (AICT) about the issue.

A final question was posed to VP (Student Life) Chris Le about the success of the SU's "Be a Lover, Not a Fighter" campaign, which was run on Whyte Avenue during the summer. While he didn't have any formal feedback at the time, Le explained that the message he has heard from the community is that the campaign was mostly positive.

ATTENDANCE

The following councillors were absent without proxy for the 11 September Council meeting: Ian Stedman (Law), Sihame Farhat (Science).

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Ryan Heise and Krystina Sulatycki

Student Council meetings are open to all students.

Which member of the Students' Union Executive would you like to spend a Tuesday evening with?



Saima Butt  
Arts II



Sean Brooks  
Education II



Justin Duna  
Geology I



Chad Fremmerlid  
Engineering IV

"Probably [Vice-President (Academic)] Bobby Samuel because I've heard a lot of controversy about him. I'd probably ask him how it feels to have everyone mad at him about the whole Bear Scat issue."

"I don't know any of them. I choose not to get myself involved because I was too involved at Mount Royal College in Calgary, and it cut into my studies. So I'm choosing to, not ignore it, but not get involved."

"That's a tough question. Who would you?" [VP (Student Life) Chris Le] "I don't know. I don't really know a lot about them."

"I don't know who they are." [Why not?] "I've just never taken the time to find out."

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RYAN SHIPPELT

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Tuesday, October 2, 2007

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

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A reception will follow the awards and lecture. Please RSVP your attendance to Scarlet Mack at: [scarlet.mack@ahfmr.ab.ca](mailto:scarlet.mack@ahfmr.ab.ca) (780) 423-5727

Dr. Diane Finegood is a biomedical engineer by training and a Professor in the School of Kinesiology at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. She is the Scientific Director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes (INMD).

An AHFMR alumna, Dr. Finegood is internationally recognized for her contributions to the understanding of diabetes and to the growth of Canada's obesity research and knowledge transfer capacity. She has received numerous honours and awards for her research and leadership.

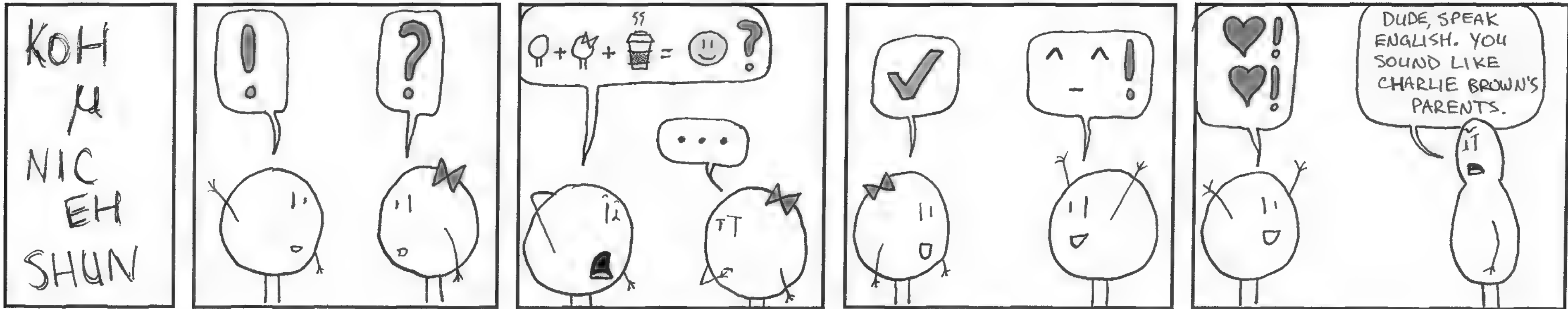
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PEANUT & CIRCLE by Chris Krause



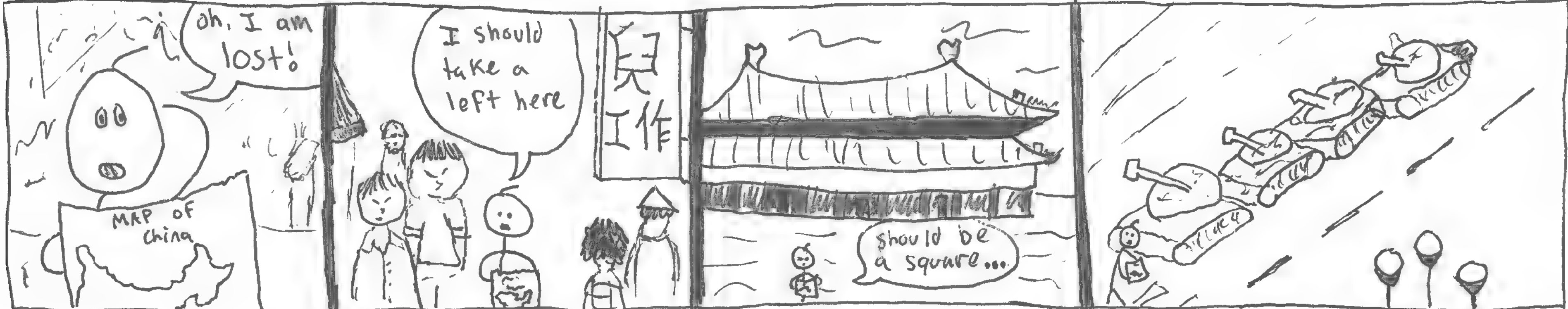
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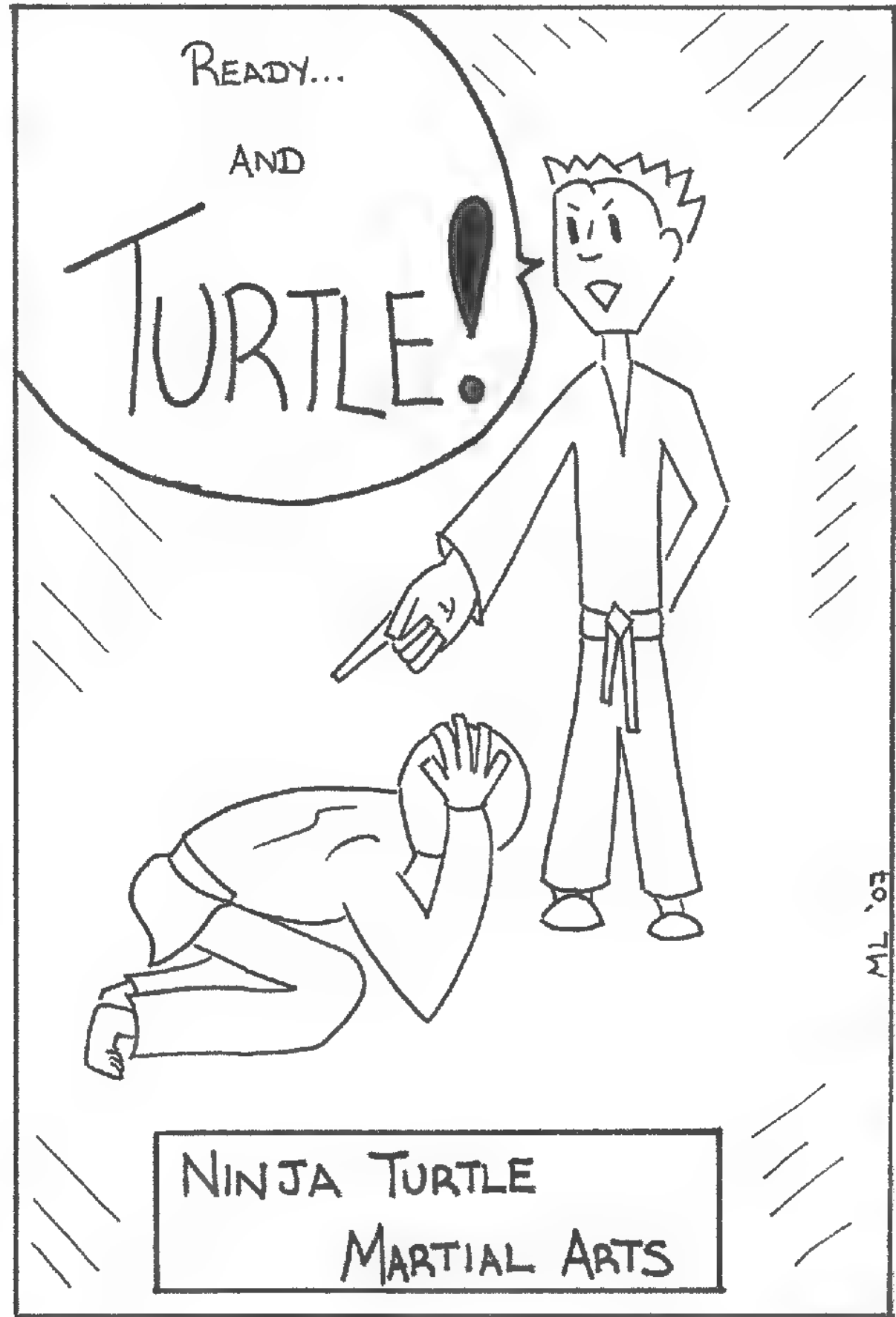
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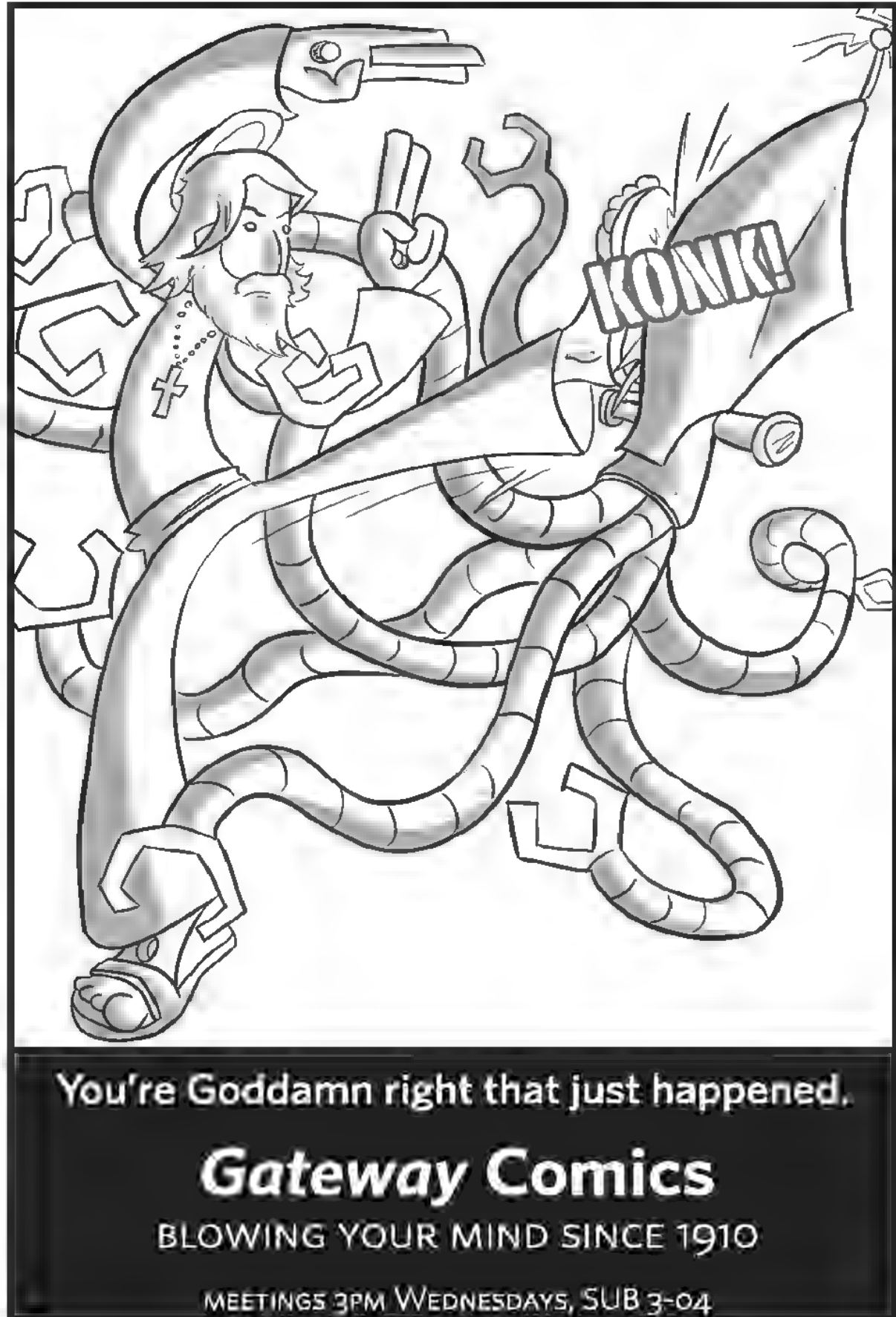
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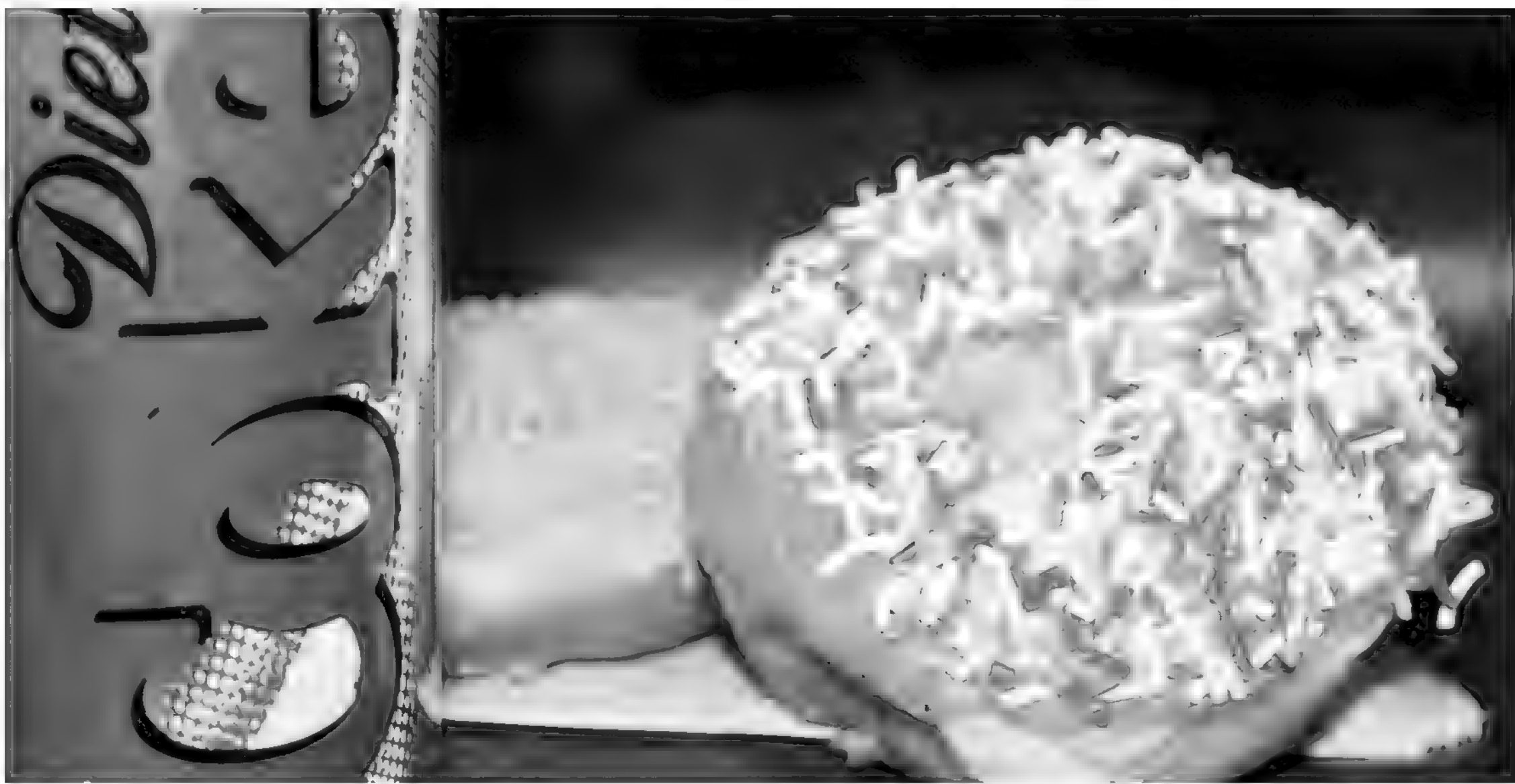


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MATTHEW HIRJI

**AN UNHOLY COMBINATION** Study finds diet foods may prompt people to consume more than their bodies require.

# Diet-food products may lead to overeating—U of A researcher

JENNY WOO  
News Writer

A recent study conducted by researchers at the University of Alberta has indicated that the consumption of calorie-wise foods may actually lead to overeating.

The study, published in the August issue of the journal *Obesity*, found that juvenile rats that were fed a diet of low-calorie foods were unable to regulate their consumption. The research paper found that this is because the ability to match caloric intake to bodily needs requires learning to associate the taste of a food with its caloric value.

Dr David Pierce, contributing researcher to the study, explained that animals must be conditioned to relate particular tastes with certain caloric content so that they can determine whether their nutritional needs have been met on the basis of how their food tastes. He added that the biological ability to regulate food intake may be destabilized by diet food products.

“The diet food industry specifically designs low-energy foods to taste like ‘high-energy’ products,” Pierce explained.

Accordingly, individuals who consume calorie-wise products such as diet pops may learn to associate the tastes of these foods with their low caloric values.

**“The diet food industry ... specifically designs low-energy foods to taste like high-energy products.”**

**DR DAVID PIERCE**  
U OF A SOCIOLOGY PROF

When the same tastes appear in foods that have a higher caloric value, such as regular pop, individuals are unable to balance their consumption.

Overeating as a result of taste-calorie conditioning has only been demonstrated among juvenile rats. This may

be because young animals are particularly sensitive to the relationship between a food’s taste and its caloric value. However, Pierce argues that as in the case of juvenile rats, human children who are fed a diet of calorie-wise foods may be particularly susceptible to overconsumption and obesity.

“[We have] not yet found a way to produce this effect in adolescent or adult rats, so it is not appropriate to recommend that adults avoid low-calorie products at this time,” he said.

Pierce added that the consumption of diet products is still better than non-diet products for adults who are attempting to lose weight.

“Products with high-sugar and fat content may lead to even higher food consumption,” he explained.

Pierce also said there’s evidence that diet drinks and obesity in adults are correlated, explaining that this may occur because the consequences of diet food product consumption in childhood may carry on into adulthood, thus serving as a factor in adult overeating and obesity.

# Cheerleaders to bring it on, again

**PROBATION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

“We had profs, deans, students, friends, and even people like Avi Lewis from CBC television, who were all writing letters to Inspector Belanger saying how they felt that a university should embrace dissent,” he said.

Three days after receiving the ban, on Monday, 17 September, Hudema was granted a meeting with Campus Security manager of operations Inspector Al Belanger, who put him on four months’ probation. During his probationary period, Hudema can be fined or given another permanent ban if found responsible for causing further disruption on campus.

Belanger said during their discussion he explained to Hudema that peaceful demonstrations on campus aren’t a problem, but when groups disrupt private functions—such as the one Shell had paid to hold—Campus Security will have to intervene.

“There are differences obviously between peaceful demonstrations and disruptive activities with regards to the University community,” Belanger said. “There are no restrictions placed on Mike at this point; it’s just a matter of having the conversation with regards to those different things.”

However, 2006/07 SU president and fellow radical cheerleader Samantha Power explained that the incident has



RYAN SHIPPELT

**COPS AND RAHERS** The radical cheerleaders were under surveillance yesterday following the group’s earlier run in with Campus Security Services.

done little to curb the group’s motivation, adding that yesterday the group performed their cheers of protest at the Oil Sands Trade Show and Conference taking place at the Northlands Agricom.

Power explained that radical cheerleading has been around since the mid-’90s, but that this current group formed over the summer. She also credited the use of activist cheerleading as a de-escalation strategy.

“You can send your radical cheerleaders up to the front of the riot cop

line, and they’re not going to attack cheerleaders,” Power said, adding that the cheers are an effective way to keep people interested.

While the group continues to put on their cheerleading-style protests, Hudema noted that he remains disappointed by the response he received.

“It’s a really scary precedent,” he said. “More and more people should start speaking up about it and try and get this overturned and create a university where this type of activity is embraced.”

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# Alberta Liberal leader Kevin Taft weighs in on housing

SCOTT FENWICK  
News Staff

University of Alberta students and staff shared their discontent over searching for affordable housing during a public forum with provincial Liberal party leader Kevin Taft in SUB on Monday.

Many attending said they had a difficult time finding accommodations for the school year at a reasonable price, with some speaking out against the Progressive Conservatives' handling of the current situation.

The forum was the first in a six-part series that brings figures from the provincial and federal Liberal parties together to discuss current issues in the province. The University of Alberta Students' Liberal Association (UASLA) plans to bring other notable provincial and federal Liberals to speak to University students on campus.

"The major goal is to [fight] apathy, to get people to talk about politics, and to get people involved in the process," said UASLA President Avi Nanda, noting that the big-name speakers are

able to get students to come out and think about major issues.

Taft said that it's important for him to talk with youth when he has the chance because young people have the lowest voter turnout rate.

"That's a problem for someone like me, who's trying to push forward issues around postsecondary education," he said.

**"To let the free market dictate the situation, in this kind of economy, is too costly to people."**

**GLEN DONLEVY**  
U OF A EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR

He also noted that the forum gave him a chance to listen to students on whether or not the party's policies are in favour with young people.

"It's invaluable. [They] raised lots of concerns and lots of thoughts around housing. You learn that you're on target or off target."

Sharing in the discontent over the

provincial government's position on housing was Glen Donlevy, an Education instructor currently on sabbatical. He questioned the Alberta government's position that rent controls don't work, saying that he recalls rent controls being effective last time they were put in place during the 1970s.

"I seem to remember lots of affordable housing built during [that] boom, even though there were rent controls under the Lougheed government," Donlevy said. "To let the free market dictate the situation, in this kind of economy, is too costly to people."

Taft also used the opportunity to pitch his party's platform in dealing with the province's affordable housing issue. Key proposals include restricting rent increases to 10 per cent annually, and making it easier for cities to ease zoning restrictions when renting out secondary suites.

"There are ways of managing rent controls," he said. "Most of the time, the market does work in creating affordable housing, but sometimes, it gets out of balance."

# New network to be more reliable

WI-FI ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The new wi-fi network will be known as University Wireless Service (UWS), but aside from the name change and increased reliability and coverage, the new service won't differ greatly from the current access points on campus. Students will still need to authenticate through a secure script using their CCID to access the network and stay logged in during the duration of their usage.

The system will also support newer wireless protocols, including the stan-

dard 802.11g protocol, which will be significantly faster than the current 802.11b networks in place around campus. Measures are also being taken to allow the system to be upgraded to the even faster 802.11n protocol once it becomes standardized.

Sorenson added that Academic Information and Communications Technologies (AICT) are on schedule for the rollout, and he hopes that about half of the work will be completed in the next eight to twelve months.


Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel feels that the upgrade is greatly needed and a long time coming for students.

"Wireless is a great service to provide to students as they become more technologically savvy," Samuel said. "A lot of students are coming to campus with laptops, and I think that by our campus investing in these things ... we're ensuring that undergraduates are getting the tools required to have a great undergraduate experience."



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# U of A writer-in-residence settles in for the academic year

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

Rob McLennan regards his newly acquired copy of Homer's *the Odyssey* as a fitting going-away present for someone who has temporarily relocated to Edmonton.

"It's about going away and coming back," the University of Alberta's 32nd writer-in-residence points out. "That's my whole year, completely."

Leaving his home base of Ottawa for nine months, McLennan has made himself a member of the U of A community, and will be splitting his time between writing, doing readings, and working with students. The author of numerous poetry and non-fiction works, McLennan says that he has a plethora of ventures currently on the go that he hopes to pursue this year.

"I'm doing so many projects that, usually, if one thing stalls I jump to another one, and then let the first one kind of bang around my head for a while until something clicks," he

explains, crediting his ongoing to-do list with saving him from being slowed down by writer's block.

"The first thing I learned with all these things is that some things take their own time, no matter how much you want to push it through or rush it. If it's going to take the time it's going to take, there's really nothing you can do about it," he says.

McLennan has also recently launched a career as a publisher, and although his literary résumé primarily contains works of poetry, he says he has never refined himself to the genre.

"I've never called myself a poet," McLennan clarifies. "I think the term is very reductive—it presupposes that poetry is all I do, and if I am to call myself something based on what I do most of all, I'd be a sleeper or a television watcher."

And while McLennan has always lived in eastern Ontario, he's no stranger out west, having done twelve cross-Canada book tours since 1997.

"I've done more stuff here than I've

done at any university across the country, which is pretty cool," he notes, adding that he's been impressed by the amount of attention the arts seem to receive in Edmonton.

"Ottawa has the worst per capita arts funding in the entire country."

Tom Wharton, current WRITE program director and former chair of the Writer-in-Residence committee responsible for appointing McLennan, credits the program, which is the longest-running of its kind in Canada, with providing authors the opportunity to engage in their writing for a year without having to worry about their financial situation.

"A lot of writers, they live pretty close to the bone, right? And so it's an opportunity, and it's a help to them for a year," Wharton says, adding that students shouldn't feel intimidated to knock on McLennan's door for feedback on their own writing projects.

"He's very friendly, and I'm sure it would be really beneficial to people."



MIKE OTTO

**A SLEEPER HIT** McLennan brings his poetry—among other things—to the U.

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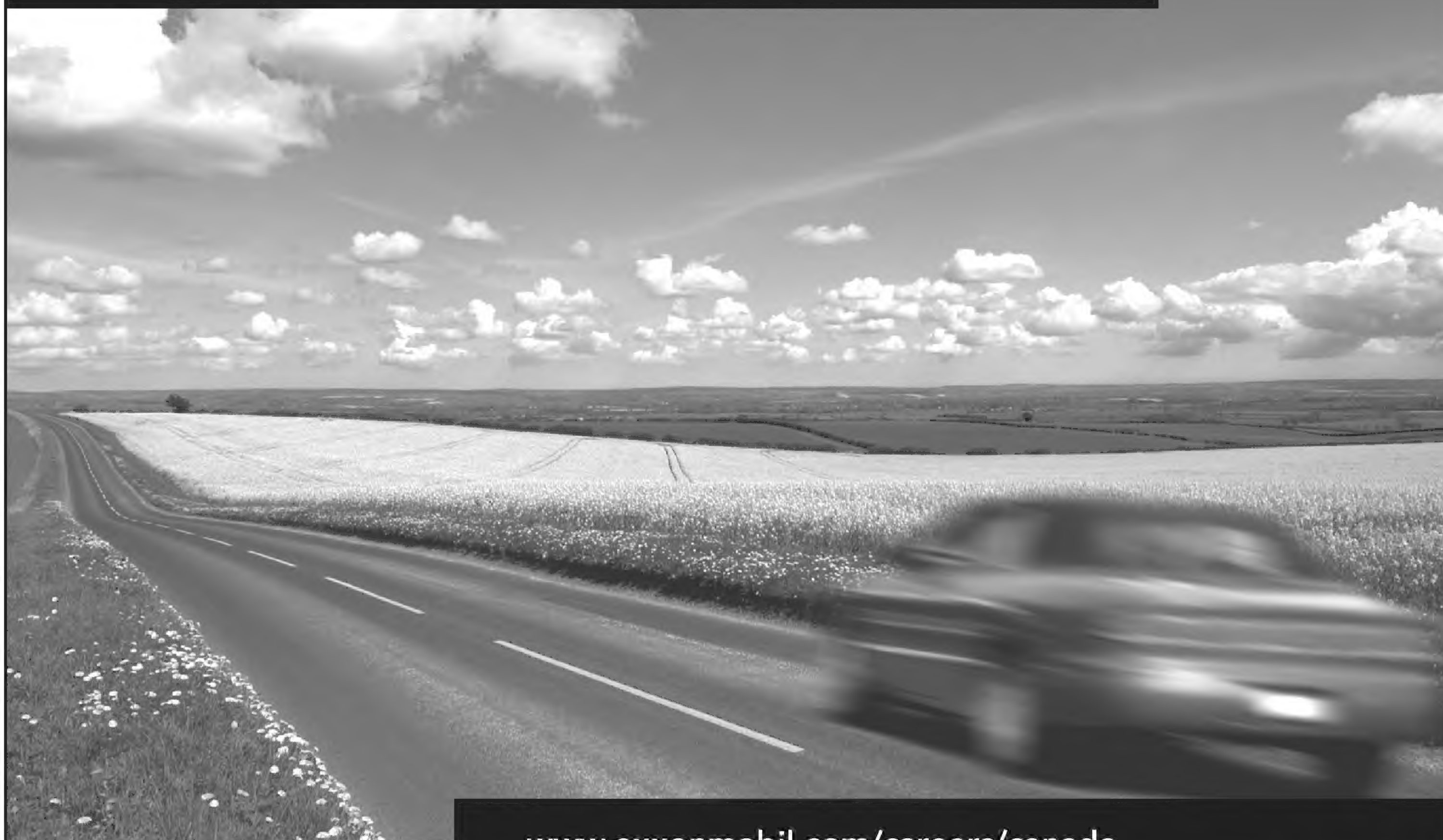
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# Ontario municipalities crack down on off-campus parties

## London student seeking legal counsel after being tasered by police

MARGARET SHERIDAN  
*Interrogang*  
DAN POLISCHUK  
*The Cord Weekly*

WATERLOO and LONDON (CUP)—Police in two Ontario municipalities are cracking down on off-campus partying by implementing stronger patrols and hefty fines.

Emily Marcoccia, a spokesperson for Ontario's Fanshawe College in London, said that several parties on one street amalgamated on the evening of 9 September.

"People gravitated towards one or two major addresses, and there was some type of, what the police called, 'aggressive behaviour' by the students," Marcoccia said.

A group of students allegedly threw beer bottles at the police officers arriving on the scene and taunted them with shouts of "pig."

After trying to break up the party without any success, London police called in backup. According to authorities, an estimated 30 officers were called to clear students from the area.

By 1:30am, four people had been placed under arrest and two criminal charges had been laid, along with a handful of non-criminal charges including breach of peace. One Fanshawe student had even been neutralized with a stun gun.

At Wilfrid Laurier University, 100km away in Waterloo, police are taking a more preemptive strategy, cracking down on house parties and handing out fines to prevent a similar incident from taking place. According to Bryan Larkin, executive officer of the Waterloo Regional Police, the force is trying extra hard this semester to "send a powerful message that there's a certain level of [behavioural] expectation."

"Often, traditional methods of giving a warning ... have not necessarily been successful. So really, it becomes a balance of education, community awareness, and enforcement," Larkin said.

His explanations were echoed by Mary George, acting manager of By-law Enforcement for the City of Waterloo.

"Things have been done in the past, but this time the police have just had extra staff [employeeed], and we're sticking with the strict enforcements. No warnings—that's the difference."

But students in both municipalities are feeling that the new enforcement

tactics are too heavy-handed. Ashley Clerici, a third-year student at WLU, has already accumulated \$600 in fines as a result of revamped noise by-laws.

"I almost think we were taken advantage of," Clerici said, estimating the heavy fines accumulated on her street are in excess of \$3000.

Dave Kutner, a fifth-year applied economics student, is in the same boat. With "a really small party" going on in his backyard, Kutner was given a fine with "no explanation whatsoever."

Kutner also said that officers denied him an explanation of how to avoid being fined in the future.

"That was our biggest complaint," Kutner said.

**"Things have been done in the past, but this time the police have just had extra staff [employeeed], and we're sticking with the strict enforcements. No warnings—that's the difference."**

MARY GEORGE  
WATERLOO ACTING MANAGER OF  
BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT

In London, students who weren't even part of the problem parties found themselves under the thumb of the law.

First-year landscape design student Chris Guerin, who was charged with breach of peace, resisting arrest, and was shocked with a stun gun, says police handled the situation badly.

"I had some people up from home, and we were in my house drinking, and we saw some twenty-odd cop cars roll up," Guerin explained. "And of course, there had to be a reason for it, so we decided to go take a walk down the street."

According to Guerin, he was the given contradictory instructions from two different officers. One told him to continue walking, while another told him to stop and wait.

Then, according to Guerin, the first officer started yelling and approached him about not having listened to the previous instruction.

"I put my hands up in the air, and then four cops put me to the ground,

and they started to kick and punch me in the back. My head hit the ground, and that's when that occurred," Guerin said, pointing to a bruise above his left eye.

"I pulled my hands from behind my back to put on my face, as a barrier between the ground and my head, and that's when they tasered me."

Guerin is now retaining legal counsel and intends to fight the charges. He later hopes to file a civil suit against the London Police Service.

"I understand that they have to take action, but the way they took action was not the best," Guerin explained. "I was on the sidewalk, didn't have a beer, wasn't totally intoxicated, [and] I wasn't at the party. You can't just go and take it out on anybody; for them to paint us all with the same brush because some people on Fleming [street] were throwing beer bottles at them is not right at all."

Waterloo City councillor Ian McLean, who oversees the ward in which the University is located, said that it was "a classic example of about 2 per cent of students giving a bad impression for everyone else."

However, he doesn't believe the enforcement is "totally unreasonable."

"If you adhere to the by-laws then you don't get ticketed, right?" McLean said.

With student frustration reaching high levels, WLU Dean of Students David McMurray has already made plans to meet with Waterloo manager of Community Relations Kaye Crawford to discuss a possible student-supported by-law awareness group.

This "structured program," Murray explained, would get students involved in helping out their fellow peers, rather than relying on the more intimidating regional police door-to-door program.

McMurray said he's interested, first of all, simply to get "all the parties together" to follow a model that was successfully implemented at the University of Western Ontario in 2000.

Meanwhile, George is guaranteeing "strict enforcement all year round," and Larkin is assuring students that the force intends to "set the tone" in September and October.

"We want [students] to have fun and enjoy the university life ... but we have citizens who are saying that there needs to be a line drawn in the sand here," Larkin said.

# No tuition for BC adult education classes

EMILY HARRISON  
*The Navigator*

NANAIMO (CUP)—The provincial government of British Columbia's has announced that tuition fees will be eliminated for all Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes.

These classes provide primary- and high-school-level courses to adults who hope to complete or upgrade their education. Currently, more than 70 per cent of ABE students live below the poverty line.

According to Malaspina College Students' Union organizer Patrick Barbosa, the 7 September announcement was largely in response to a massive lobbying effort from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) this spring

and this fall.

In April, members of the CFS met with 61 members of the BC legislature, securing majority support for the initiative. Then, throughout the week of 10 September, petition postcards from thousands of students also piled into the legislature.

"This was no natural evolution of the Liberals' policy," Barbosa said. "Students made it impossible for the government to not hear their call."

"Minister of Advanced Education Murray Coell has made the right decision," said Shamus Reid, BC Chairperson of the CFS. "ABE students, a majority of whom live below the poverty line, will no longer be expected to pay upwards of \$500 for each high school course."

Barbosa, who was once an ABE student himself, said that this change will open doors to adults who want to improve their earning potential and sense of fulfillment.

"Prior to completing my high-school-level education, I had low self-esteem," Barbosa said. "After finishing my ABE in a college setting, I realized I had potential."

If it wasn't for his ABE education, Barbosa figures he would still be working at a gas station. He has now moved on to university and is working at a job that he enjoys, while earning an income that also supports his family.

"Because of the hard work of students across this province, the [government] realized that their decisions were bad for BC," Barbosa said.

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## The *Times*, they are a-changing

YOU MAY NOT REALIZE IT, BUT RIGHT NOW, we're seeing the beginnings of a new kind of Renaissance. But rather than falling apples and optics, the catalyst of today's change comes in the digital format of the Internet.

It's making quiet ripples that may seem small, but which are quickly expanding into tidal waves of revolutionary proportions, and at the epicentre of its impact are some of the key industries that shape the way our culture and society function. Perhaps one of the enterprises most affected by these torrents has been the mainstream media. The past two years have seen exponential shifts in the methods of information dispersal, and the media is finding itself at a critical junction on the information highway.

Yesterday at midnight, the *New York Times* cracked open its digital vaults and removed the subscription fee program from its website. The program, which was started two years ago, previously allowed online readers access to the *Times* at a yearly fee of \$49.95, or \$7.95 US a month. While some sections of the site were already publicly available—though they offered total access to the paper's print subscribers—op/ed and archived articles were kept under virtual lock-and-key to non-paying visitors.

This decision marks a progressive move by one of the major players in the media field. For years, newspaper print circulation has been declining while online readership expands, forcing publishers to take a side in a widening chasm in the way that media is distributed. The rift is getting wider, too, and publications are being forced to make crucial changes in an "adapt-or-die" kind of world.

Early adopters to the new media include the technology gurus at *Wired* magazine, who've been making headway for years in changing the shape of their product, and have recently finished a complete overhaul of both their print and online editions. Not far behind, the *Globe and Mail* has followed suit, offering a slick online interface to their readers, while only locking down "premium" to non-subscribers.

On the other side of the fence, the *Wall Street Journal* insists on maintaining a traditional stance on the way they market their newspaper, remaining the only major American newspaper to continue to charge for its online content—a practice it's been carrying out since 1996.

It's easy to argue from an ideological stance when discounting business tactics, but in reality, the shift to open online content is a logical move for the bankers too. Subscription programs have proven to be immensely successful throughout the 21st Century in the marketing of print media, but the shift to the web has been met with mixed results. Especially with the way that the Internet is evolving now, there's a demand for open access to instant information. While some users may simply not subscribe to the idea of paying real money for virtual information, most web surfers get their data fix from a variety of sources, and know that if the content is unavailable at one site, the same story can be found only a click away on that of its competitor. This, combined with the successful and lucrative new methods being installed by online advertisers, means that the potential long-term revenues by-and-large outweigh the short-term profits of subscription systems.

While the profit venture may have been the primary—if not only—motivation for the *Times*, it's a convenient matter of coincidence for publishers, advertisers, and readers alike. Open access builds loyalty in a reader base, while encouraging expansive distribution. As articles freely circulate among Google searches and user-driven news aggregators like Digg—two of the most common methods of online information dispersal—the demand for easy-to-access content is ever-growing and is quickly becoming a major source of new readership. There's simply nothing to gain from blocking online access to readily available information. So good on the *Times* for their proactive business decision. It's only a matter of, well, time until the rest of the pack begins to immitate.

MIKE KENDRICK  
Design & Production Editor



MIKE KENDRICK

## LETTERS

### Freedom of speech being silenced by tasing

I am appalled by what I witnessed on YouTube last night. I don't know if you're aware, but a great injustice was committed against the core freedoms that we as members of liberal-democracies value most.

This injustice happened not in a prison camp, nor under a dictator's regime, but rather in the sacred halls of education at the University of Florida. I'm writing about the arrest and tasing of UF student Andrew Meyer by campus police at a John Kerry Q & A forum on Monday. This came about not because the student was causing anyone harm, but because he was asking questions.

While being apprehended, Meyer asked what he had done, but the campus police refused to tell him. He even offered to leave the building, but 5-0 insisted on stunning him, and only once he was being escorted out of the building did they tell him that he was being arrested for inciting a riot.

As anyone who has seen the video can attest, there was no riot happening at the forum; in fact, no one seemed to be doing anything. John Kerry asked for everyone to "cool down" and even attempted to answer the question, but no one tried to stop the police.

I think the most ironic part of the story is that it happened on Monday, 17 September 2007, which means this took place 220 years to the day of the signing of the US Constitution, in which the First Amendment gives its citizens the right to freedom of speech.

This whole story begs us to ask the question relevant to our own

University experience: could it happen here? It's crucial for us at the U of A to have a healthy debate on the subject in order to preserve our essential rights, maybe in the structure of a Q & A town forum; the one thing I ask however, is that campus Five-O refrains from bringing tasers.

DANIEL BELBAS  
Arts II

### If Britney wants to play ball, she'd better shape up

I find it odd that "M Snider" considers it off limits to critique Britney Spears for being out of shape at her recent VMA performance. Sure, by ordinary standards, she was in decent physical condition, but ordinary people aren't being paid millions of dollars (re: "Girls not angry for once," 18 September).

What exactly does Britney do to earn her paycheck? She lip-syncs through her performances, as many of her recent "comeback" shows have displayed. She has choreographers to arrange her dance moves, and all of her songs are co-written with at least one other person. She doesn't seem to play an instrument, and using her fame for some kind of meaningful advocacy appears to be beyond her ability. Let's face it: Britney Spears is being paid to look good while all the real work is done by other people.

It's the same standard of judgment used against all individuals who are paid obscene amounts of money for God-given talents. When sports stars who are paid millions to be the fastest and the strongest let themselves get out of shape, they're held accountable, and rightfully so.

I see no reasons why Britney Spears deserves to be treated any

differently. She stepped back onto the field at the Video Music Awards and couldn't even keep up with her backup dancers.

Fair game? I think so.

JANELLE NEED  
Arts III

### Bear Scat could be turned over to the invisible paw

What surprises me about the current debate surrounding Bear Scat is the complete lack of cold-hearted capitalism.

Rather than rely on the Student's Union to once again fail to provide for the desires of students, why not turn Bear Scat into a subscription service? With outside investment in the infrastructure and programming, we can keep this wonderful tool alive and allow it to reach its full potential.

Even if usage declines, there'll surely be enough interest to allow the system to fund itself with nominal per user, per term subscription rates. Anyone interested in forming a Bear Scat Investors' Group shoot me an email at gv@ualberta.ca.

GERRIT VAN BRUGGEN  
Arts IV

### Cats a worse pet than fish

Recently one of my roommates decided that she wanted a cat. Being an animal lover, I had no issues with this, and I supported her in acquiring a feline addition to our household because hell, I'd always had dogs around when I lived at home, so how would this be any different? Well boys and girls, to my surprise it is. It's much fucking different.

Despite the constant mewling, demands for food, vicious claw attacks on my feet when I'm sleeping, rude awakenings with a cat's asshole

in my face, and the constant clawing up of the couches, the biggest beef I have with this damn animal isn't what it does, but instead what it lacks.

Like I mentioned before, I've been a dog person all my life. I'm used to the happy greetings, the fetching of objects, the constant companionship. Most of all, I'm used to the loyalty. This cat however, has none of this. It's its own fucking boss, and doesn't give a shit what you say. I mean, come on, what the hell is the point of having an animal that doesn't listen to you and has zero semblance of loyalty?

Getting a pet is about growing with it, learning from it, and teaching it sweet tricks to help your pimp-game. Last time I checked the *Guidebook for Good Pets*, it definitely didn't have a chapter about feeding it and then letting it go on its own merry fucking way.

Some people swear by these god-damn animals, and I think I know why: you're lazy. You're not willing to put in any real face time. If you want a real pet who'll give you something back, go get a dog. Cats are selfish pricks.

BRENDAN TRAYNER  
Graduate Studies

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The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.



# 'Tis the season to be patriotic

Lest we forget, 9/11 will probably be turned into an actual holiday in the US



MATT LISAC

Another 11 September has come and gone, and maybe it's just me, but I firmly believe that it's only a matter of time before the Americans turn 9/11 into a holiday.

Deep down, you know it's inevitable. It'll start as a joke on the Internet—a petition to make 9/11 a national holiday. But future president George Herbert Walker Texas Ranger Bush III will embrace it due to a dip in popularity, and voila! A statutory holiday is born.

But that's only the beginning. As time goes on and the original history is forgotten, parents will eventually be forced to answer questions from their kids about how the holiday came to be—and as with any celebration, its origin will become greatly exaggerated.

"Well son," they'll say, "it was a remarkable day. The twin towers were 911 stories tall—each. There were 300 terrorists on each plane, all named Mohammed, with long, sharp fangs. Each and every one of them had their arms surgically removed and replaced with AK-47s, but they were still allowed to get on the planes because, technically, they were "unarmed," and that's just how security worked in those days—they were fooled by simple puns.

"Just before the first building fell, a tall, white, square-jawed firefighter went to the roof, and with an orphan

baby stuffed down his shirt, he grabbed the American flag that was flapping majestically beside him, and, using it as a parachute, glided safely down to the foot of the Statue of Liberty, which he then saluted as it shed a single copper tear. You should've been there, son, because as the second plane approached, a flock of American bald eagles came out of nowhere, all flying in perfect formation, and dove headlong into the jumbo jet of terror, trying in vain to divert it from its course, all the while screaming, 'Freedom! Freedom!'"

**American Idol will have a beautiful 9/11 Special, with 9/11 carols, like everyone's favourite country number "There's a Fuselage-sized Hole in my Heart."**

Of course, since it's a holiday, Hallmark will want to cash in. You'll be sending everyone you know 9/11 cards, and you'll have to compose a 9/11 letter each year, detailing what you've done—because you won't actually talk to your friends anymore. "Honey, does it sound like we're bragging too much if we say that Billy beat up a couple of brown kids in school? What? Yeah, you're right, that does sound better. Okay, 'in April, Billy beat up a couple of Islamo-fascists at his school.'"

Not to be out done, Wal-Mart will want to milk this cash-cow too, so

instead of a Christmas tree, there'll be a Wal-Mart-brand 9/11 tree in every home—only it won't be a tree, it'll be a big cardboard building.

On 9/11 Eve, the kids will all gather 'round this building and throw model airplanes until it falls down, revealing the mound of presents underneath. Parents will give their kids video games like the newest *Grand Theft Auto*—in which you can, ironically, fly planes into buildings—and the children will get their parents the same shitty gift each year: a 9/11 sweater (though you can't wear it any other day of the year, because that would be tasteless.)

And it'll get worse. *American Idol* will have a beautiful 9/11 Special, with 9/11 carols, like everyone's new favourite country number, "There's a Fuselage-sized Hole in my Heart." And who could forget the instant classic, "Rudolph the Giuliani?" Around the country, the inbred yokels at home will smile and say, "You know, I'm not tip-ick-ly fond of the I-talians, but that Ruuudy Giuuuliani sure puts the Mayr in Amayrca."

And just as it's getting completely out of control and all the grey-haired scrooges are saying, "I remember when 9/11 was about the spirit of giving, family, and Jesus," they'll release a special Claymation film about United Flight 93 entitled *Tommy: The Little Plane That Couldn't Quite Make It*. ("Hey Tommy, why're you so broken up?" "All my brothers flew into famous buildings, but I only hit a field. I was supposed to fly into the White House you know." "Whatever you say, Tommy. Whatever you say.") And with that, Hollywood will engulf the country in the flames of Hell once and for all.

# Final frontier needs to clean up its act



CONAL PIERSE

I'm sick and tired of the Earth being an intergalactic dumping ground. I'm talking, of course, about meteorites, the garbage of space—and it's high time we put a stop to them.

We don't allow people to throw their garbage wherever the hell they want, and we shouldn't be so accepting of the same kind of malarkey from outer space. Besides, last time I checked, we aren't shooting rockets full of toxic waste at Mars, so I think it's only fair they showed us the same respect.

There are those who would argue that these are valuable bits of scientific evidence that teach us about our solar system, but truthfully, that's a load of horseshit. The only thing I learn from a Wendy's cup that's discarded on the side on the road is that somewhere out there is some dick who couldn't finish his Mountain Dew.

But more importantly, these things are dangerous. Recently, what observers described as a "fireball" fell from the sky and struck the ground near the town of Carancas in the Peruvian Andes. It's bad enough that this piece of astrological carelessness ruined perfectly good mountainous terrain by creating a large crater, but it also released noxious gases that caused visitors to the

scene to fall ill. It also killed a bull. His name was Robert Paulson.

Geologists are currently examining the site to determine whether or not it is indeed a meteorite, but personally, I think that's a waste of resources. They've already determined that it's not a satellite, and Mir came down nearly six years ago, so that leaves only one explanation: we're under attack.

**We don't allow people to throw their garbage wherever the hell they want, and we shouldn't be so accepting of the same kind of malarkey from outer space.**

Now is the time for *action*, not sitting around twiddling our thumbs and waiting for Marvin the Martian to send us a videotape in which he claims responsibility. We need to stop squabbling with one another about petty matters like oil and nuclear armament, and start working together in order to build some giant lasers to point at the sky.

You might think that I'm over-reacting, but did you know that we're currently defenseless against space invaders? We need to build those grif you've seen *Independence Day*, you'll know what I'm talking about. We can't rely on the assumption that Jeff Goldbloom will be

able to hack their computer systems, or that they'll be too stupid to know about bacterial infections and simply fall over and die in what can only be called one of the biggest cop-outs of all time (other than *Signs* of course—that whole movie was bunk).

Besides, would turning our hatred outwards really be so bad? Imagine North and South Korea, working together again, all the old animosity forgotten, replaced by an ever-growing fear and hatred of Galactus. imagine George Bush shaking the cold, lifeless hand of Fidel Castro after reopening trade between their two nations (because you can't have badass space marines without Cuban cigars).

Racism would be replaced by spacism, and man would actually start looking after his fellow man because, despite their differences, at least they don't have six arms and green skin. And with everyone's attention directed upwards, Canada could finally start clubbing seals in peace.

Sure, we'd still be living in a world that promotes fear as a public sedative, and meteor showers would no longer be a romantic event—moreso a time to grab your ray gun and sit on your roof in silent vigil—but at least we'd stop killing one another on large scales so that we could kill little green men on large scales. And even if it all falls apart and it turns out that we're actually alone in the universe, well, we could still use those space lasers to carve some stuff on the moon. How could you be opposed to that?



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